Bennett • Cafaro • Prianto • Peteri

WITCHBLADE®

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14
SEPT
DIGITAL EDITION
US
TOP COW UNIVERSE

WITCHBLADE®

created by **Marc Silvestri**, **David Wohl**, **Brian Haberlin** & **Michael Turner**

New York City Police Detective Sara Pezzini's life was forever fractured by her father's murder. Cold, cunning, and hellbent on revenge, Sara now stalks a vicious criminal cabal beneath the city. During a brutal warehouse massacre, Sara bonded with the Witchblade, an ancient weapon that transformed her into something wild, magnificent, and beyond her darkest imaginings.

Previously...Sara's search into the cover-up that destroyed her father and the supernatural forces surrounding her pointed to billionaire Kenneth Irons. Irons' plan was revealed, leading to a bloody showdown where the megalomaniac tore the Witchblade from Sara's arm, while battling in the supernatural nest of the dark creatures known as creosotes, who had kidnapped a strange angelic creature with the ability to heal others, but not itself. The winged creature, along with an aspect of The Darkness, would allow Irons to claim the Witchblade for himself. Faced with saving the strange being and her dying partner or risking Irons damning the world by wielding the Witchblade, Sara made a terrible sacrifice. With its last bit of strength and calling upon Jackie Estacado for help, Sara used the innocent being's power to manifest a new weapon. A Witchblade, forged through the death of innocence with a touch of darkness, held in balance by her own will. Sara escaped and has come to terms with her place, keeping a balance between the darkness and the light. The world moves on, and Sara is called to service once again, as a serial killer begins to stir the city into a frenzy of paranoia and fear.

"Ghost of Tom Joad"

Written by **Marguerite Bennett**
Line art by **Giuseppe Cafaro**
Colors by **Arif Prianto**
Letters by **Troy Peteri**
Edits by **Marc Silvestri**, **Matt Hawkins** and **Ryan Cady**

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Cover B, D (Virgin), and Top Cow Store Spot Foil Exclusive:
Bruno Abdias and **Arif Prianto**
Cover C, E (Virgin): **Raymond Gay** and **Arif Prianto**

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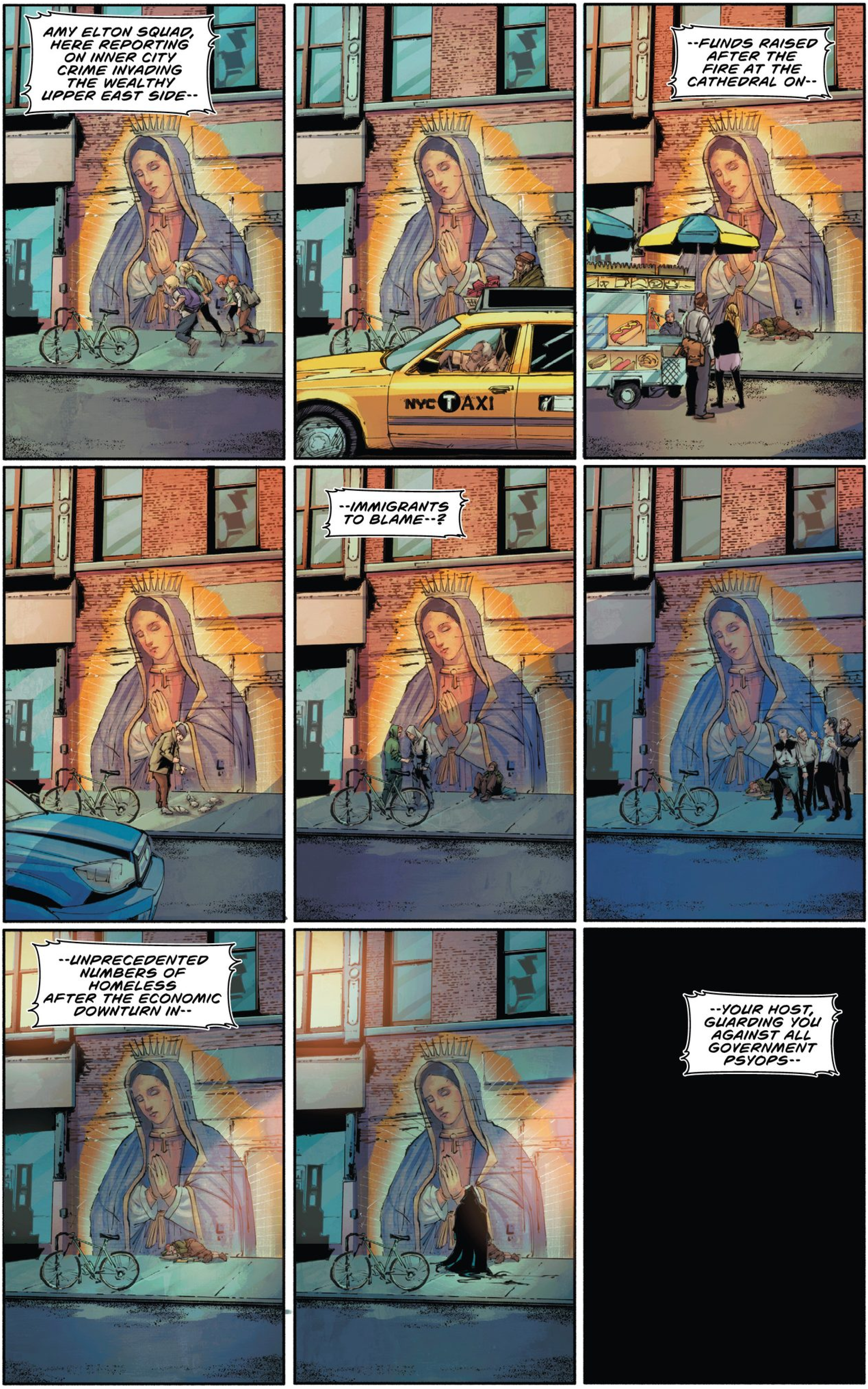
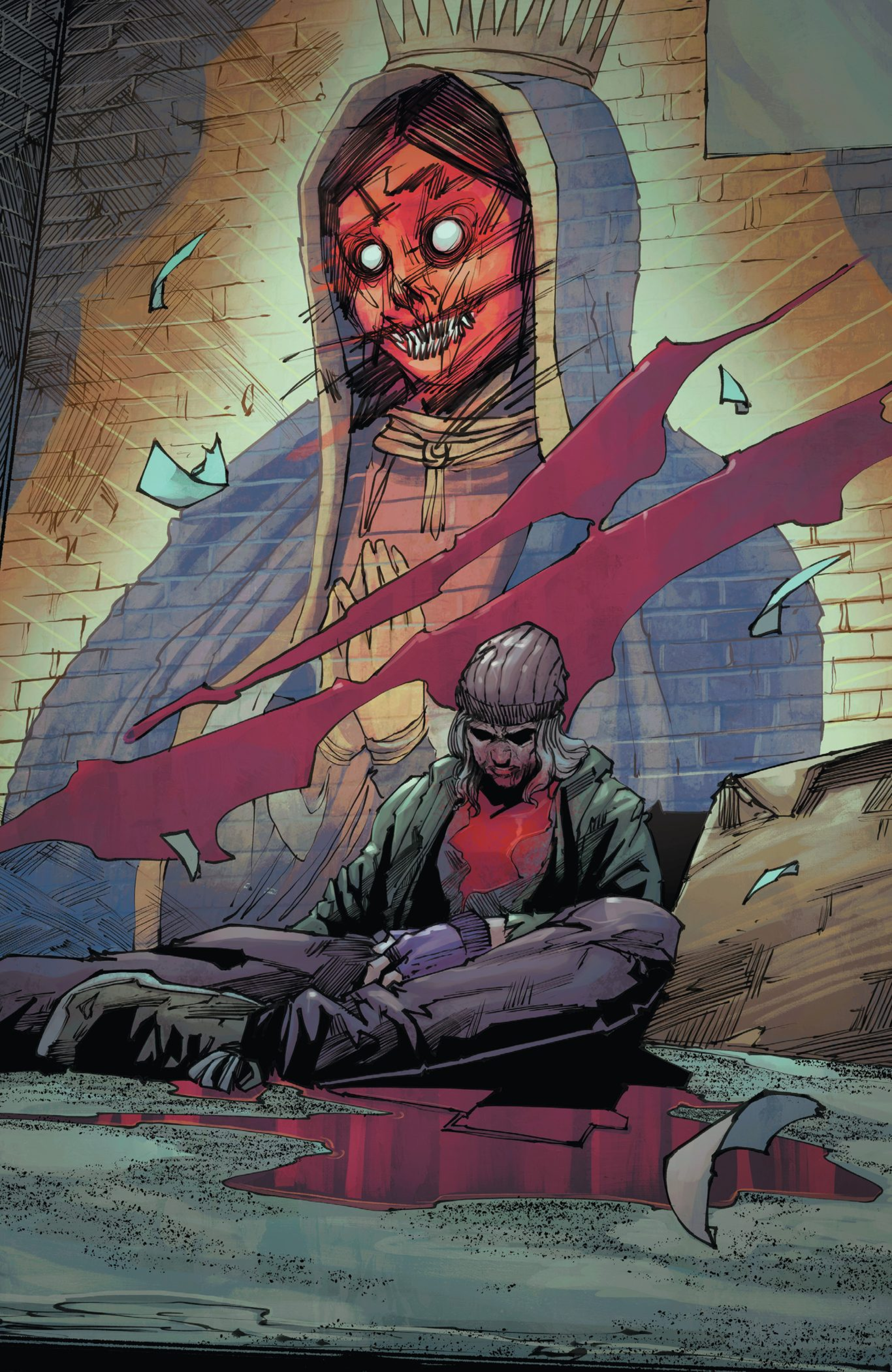
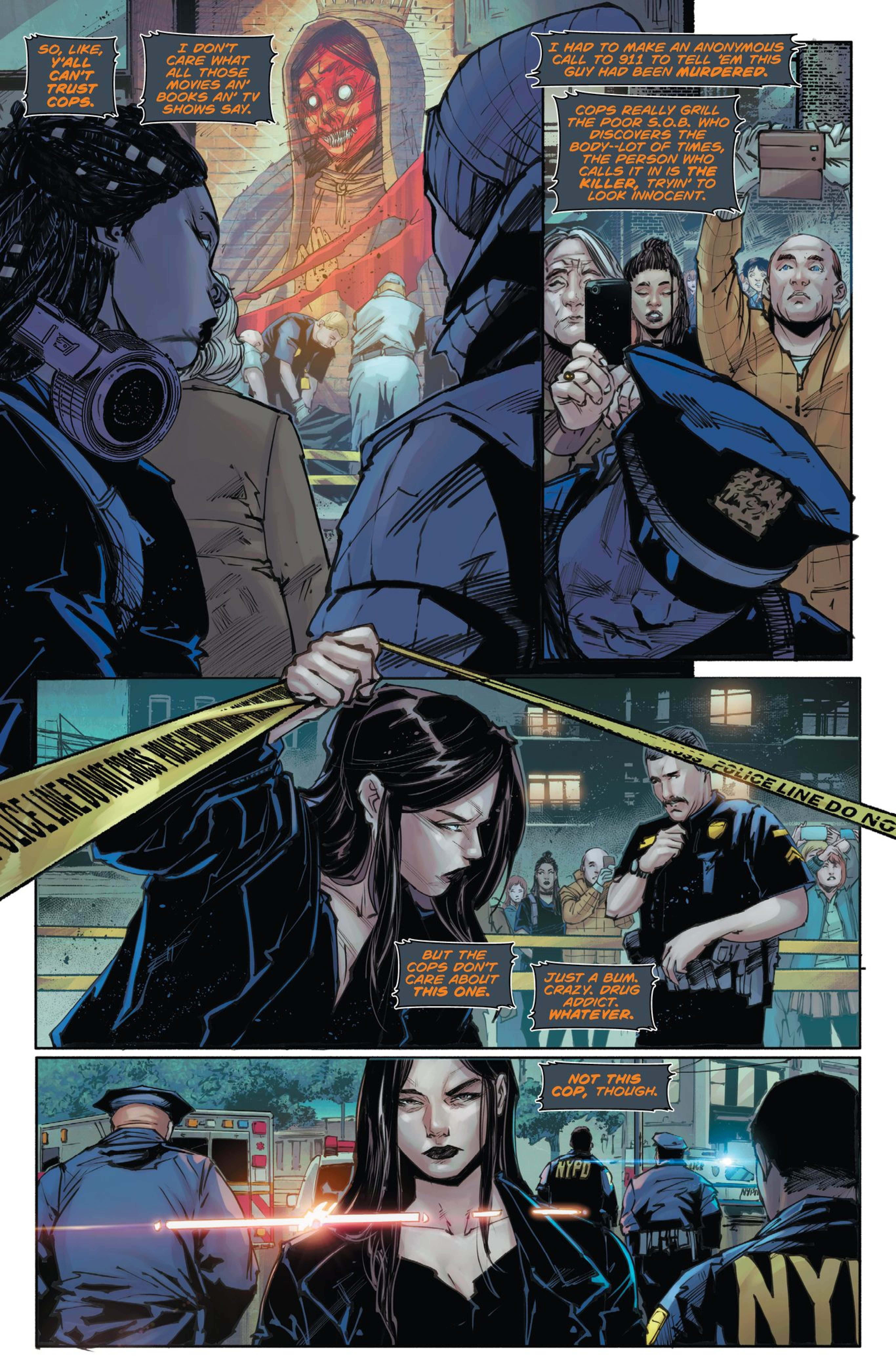
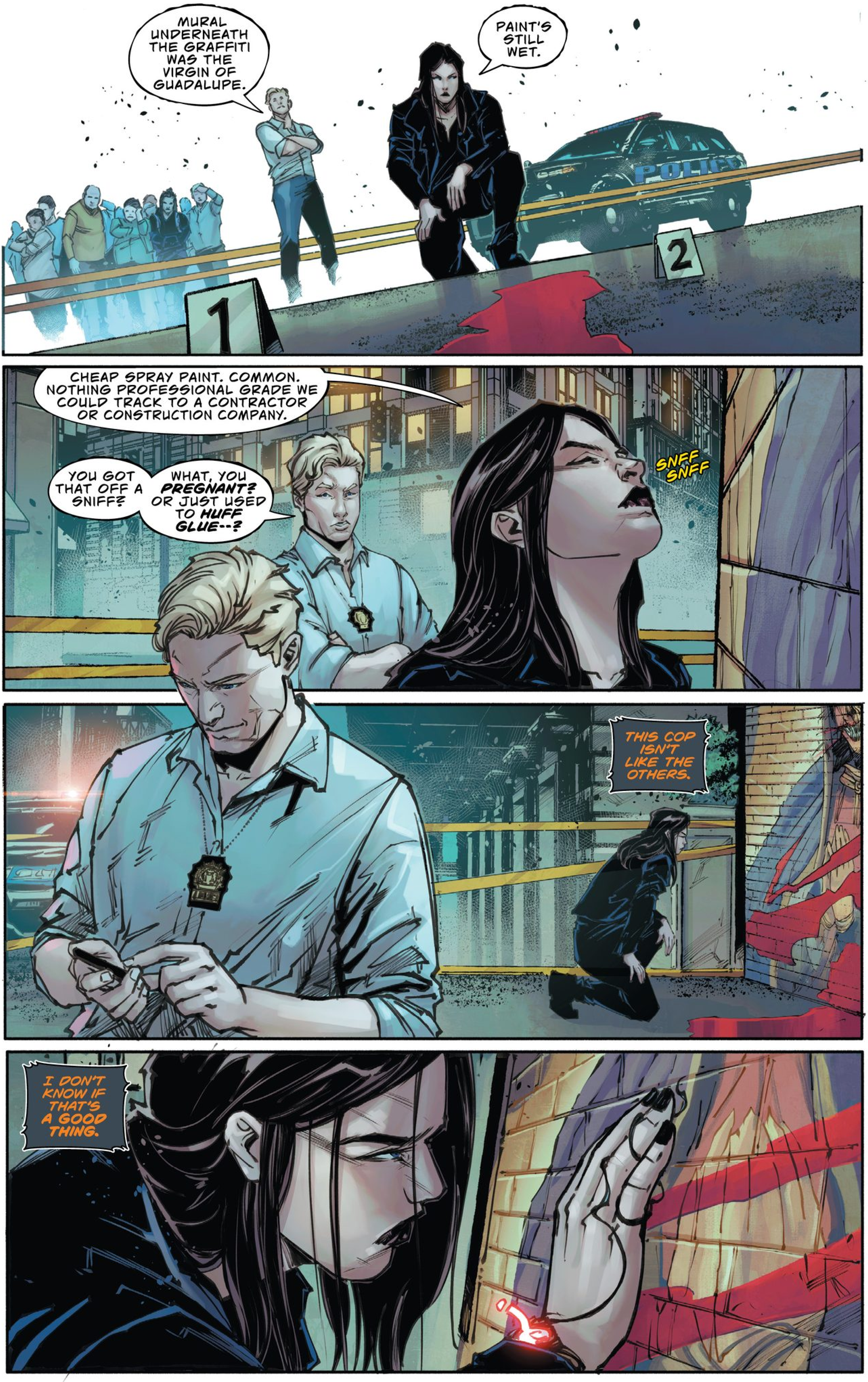
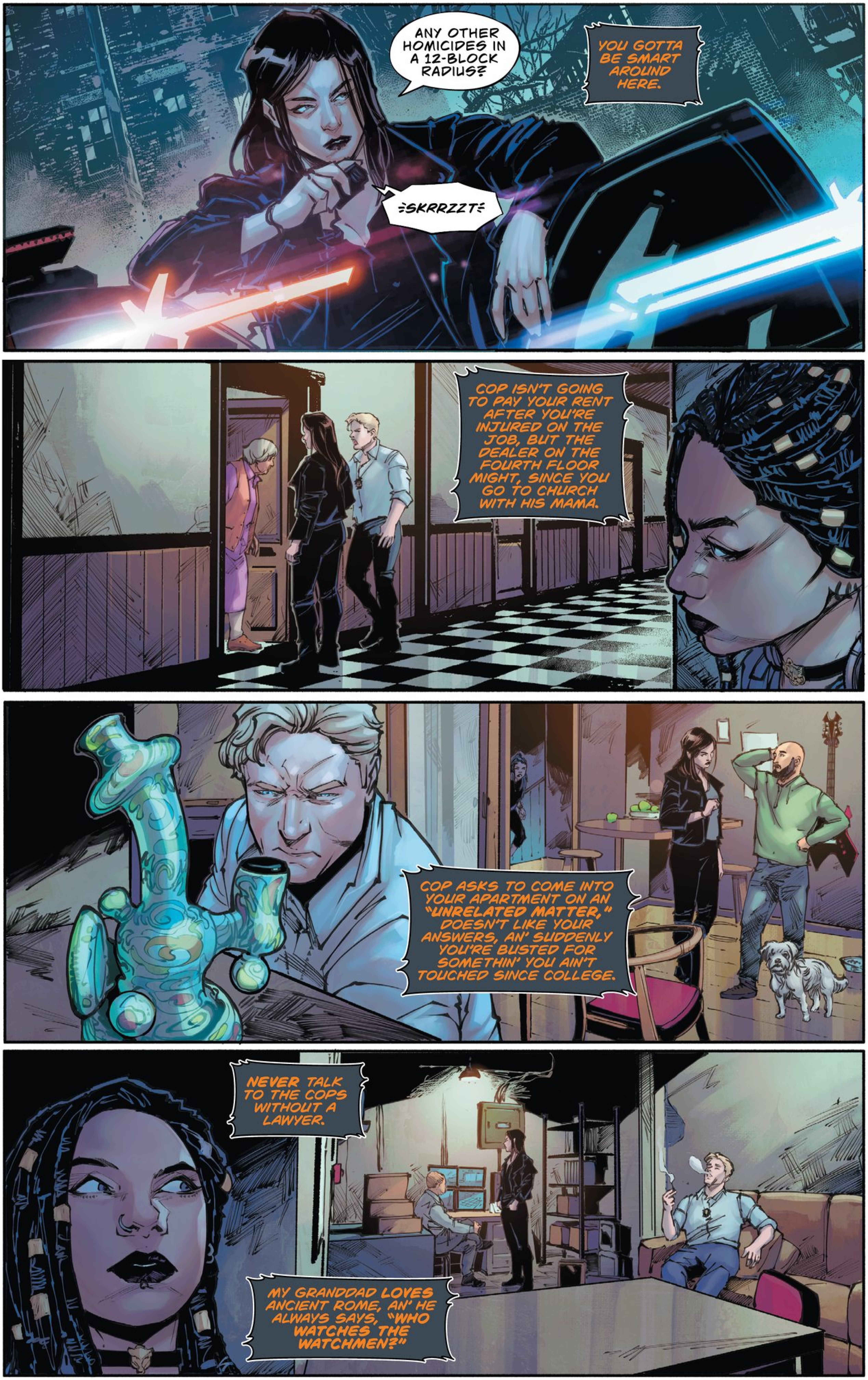
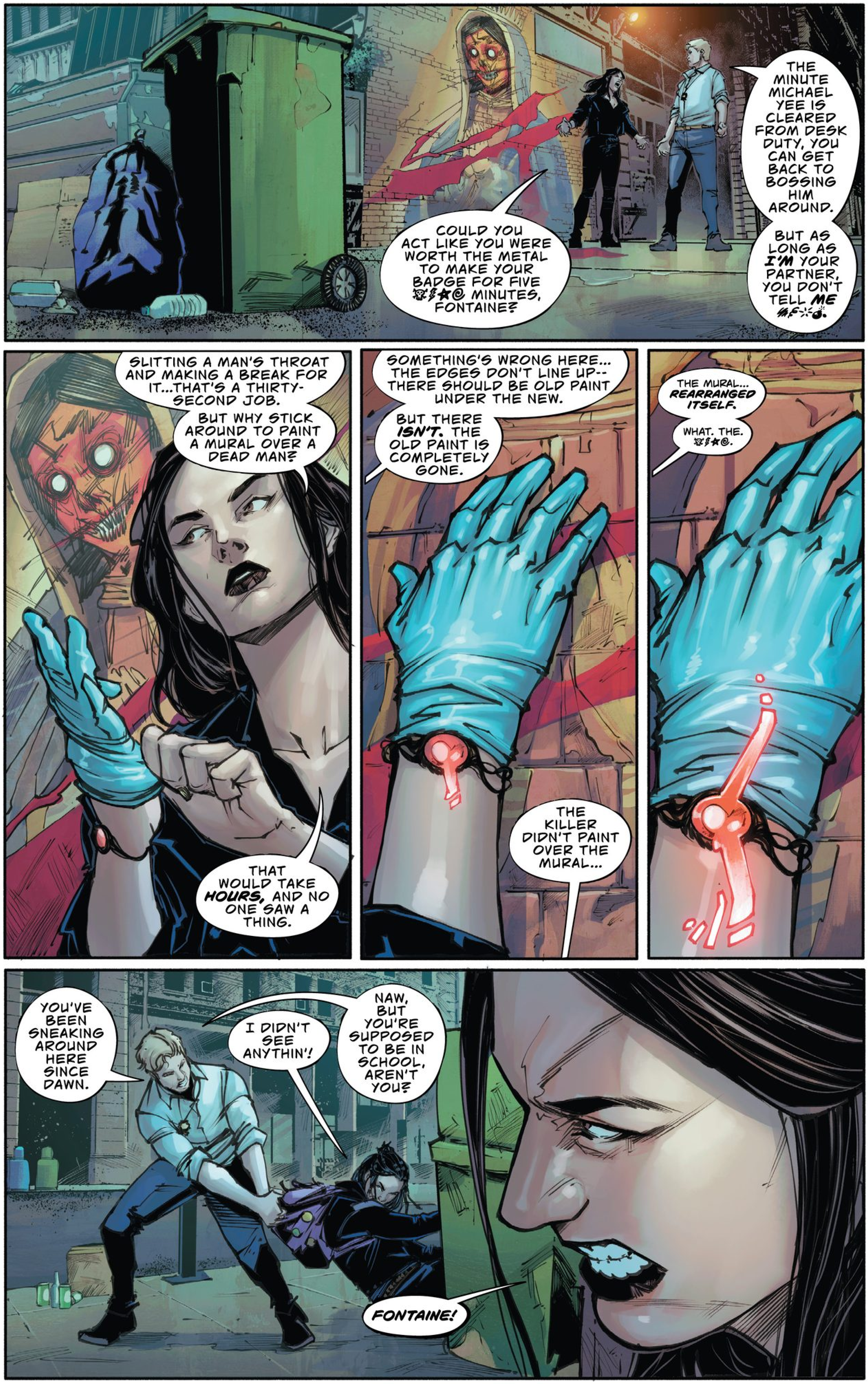

AMY ELTON SQUAD, HERE REPORTING ON INNER CITY CRIME INVADING THE WEALTHY UPPER EAST SIDE--
NYC TAXI
--FUNDS RAISED AFTER THE FIRE AT THE CATHEDRAL ON--
--IMMIGRANTS TO BLAME--?
--UNPRECEDENTED NUMBERS OF HOMELESS AFTER THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN IN--
--YOUR HOST, GUARDING YOU AGAINST ALL GOVERNMENT PSYOPS--

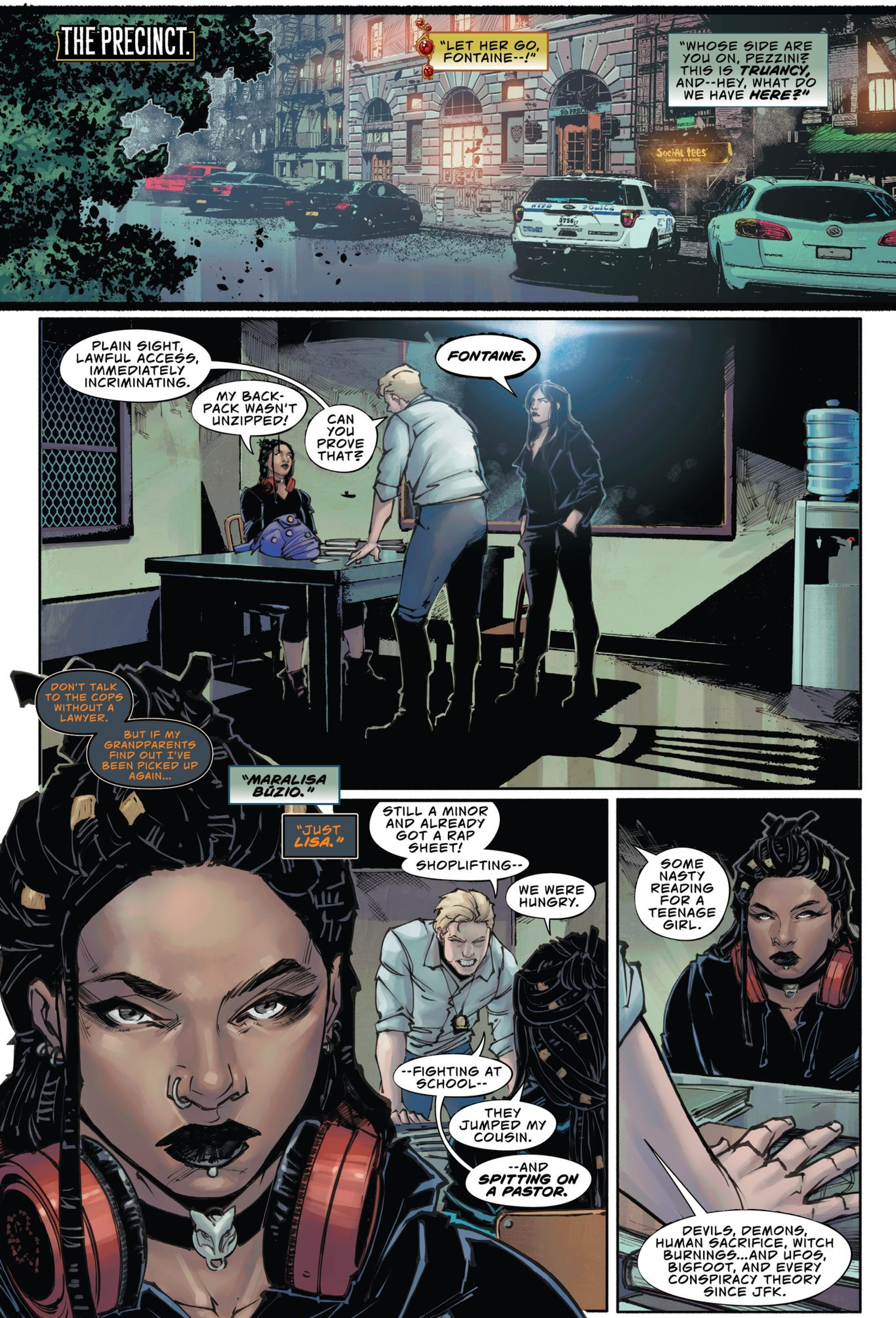


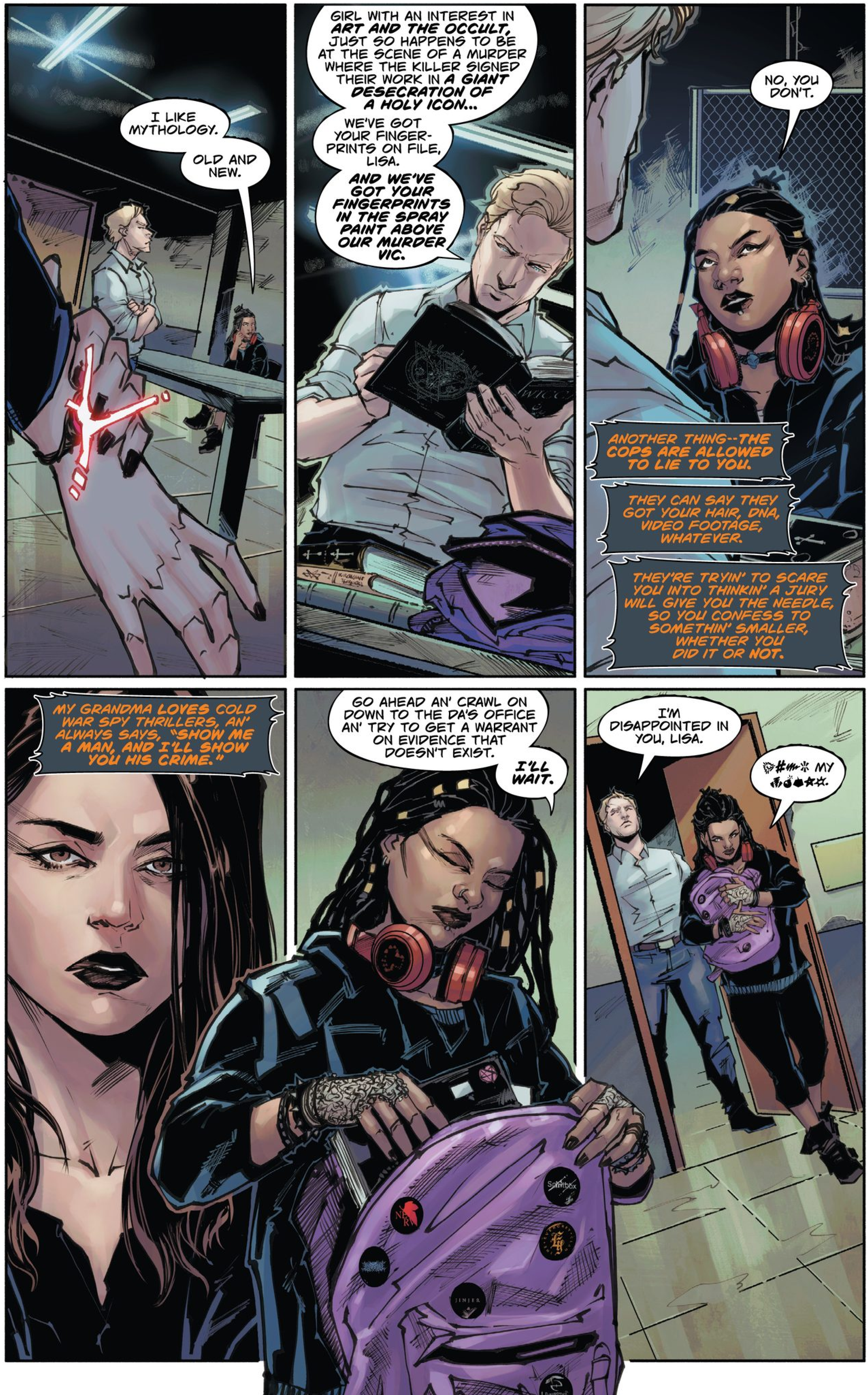

SO, LIKE, Y'ALL CAN'T TRUST COPS.
I DON'T CARE WHAT ALL THOSE MOVIES AN' BOOKS AN' TV SHOWS SAY.
I HAD TO MAKE AN ANONYMOUS CALL TO 911 TO TELL 'EM THIS GUY HAD BEEN MURDERED.
COPS REALLY GRILL THE POOR S.O.B. WHO DISCOVERS THE BODY--LOT OF TIMES, THE PERSON WHO CALLS IT IN IS THE KILLER, TRYIN' TO LOOK INNOCENT.
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS
CROSS POLICE LINE DO NO
BUT THE COPS DON'T CARE ABOUT THIS ONE.
JUST A BUM. CRAZY. DRUG ADDICT. WHATEVER.
NOT THIS COP, THOUGH.
NYPD
NYP

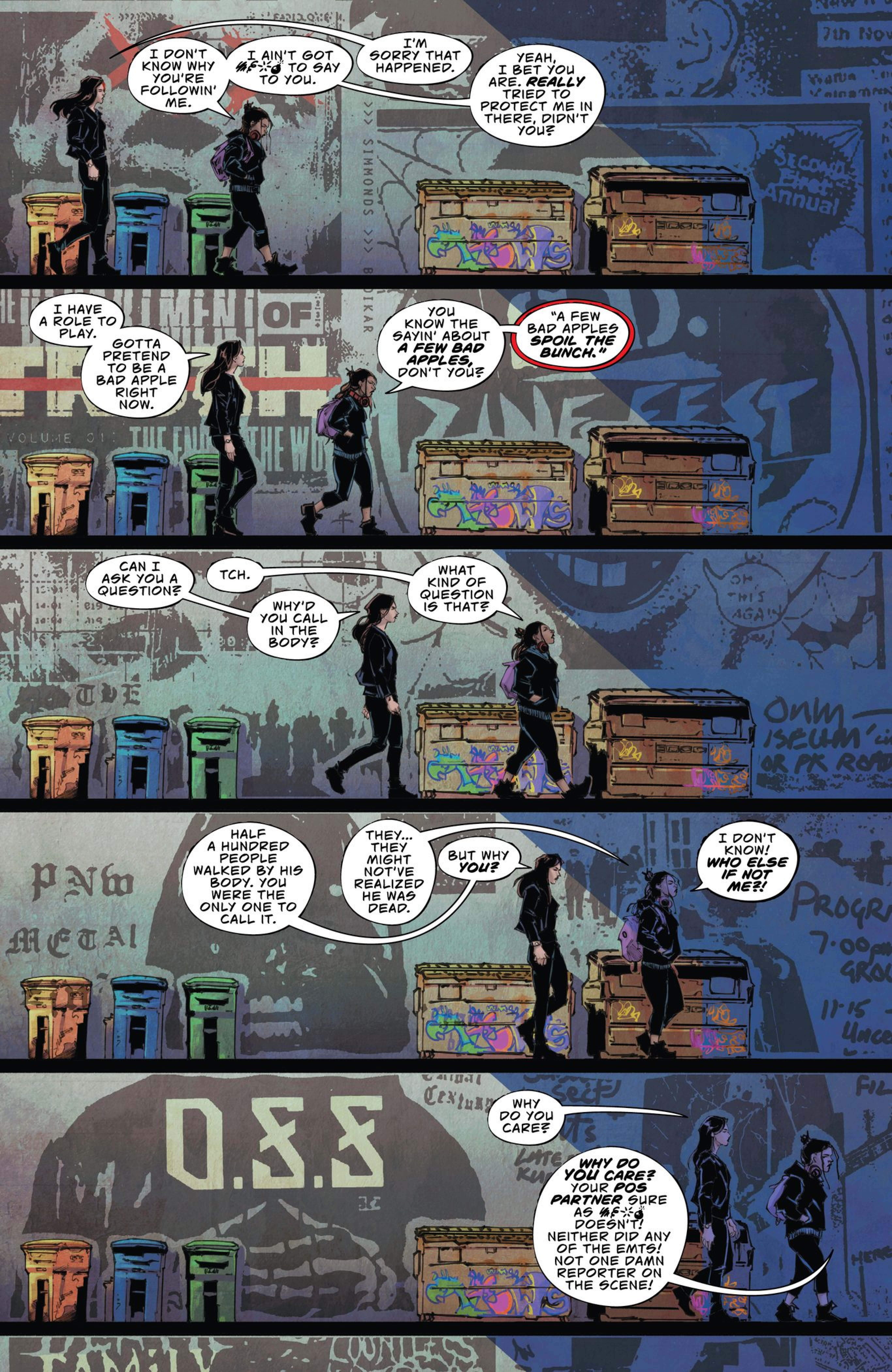

MURAL UNDERNEATH THE GRAFFITI WAS THE VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE.
PAINT'S STILL WET.
POLICE
1
2
CHEAP SPRAY PAINT. COMMON. NOTHING PROFESSIONAL GRADE WE COULD TRACK TO A CONTRACTOR OR CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.
SNFF SNFF
YOU GOT THAT OFF A SNIFF?
WHAT, YOU *PREGNANT?* OR JUST USED TO *HUFF GLUE--?*
THIS COP ISN'T LIKE THE OTHERS.
I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S A GOOD THING.

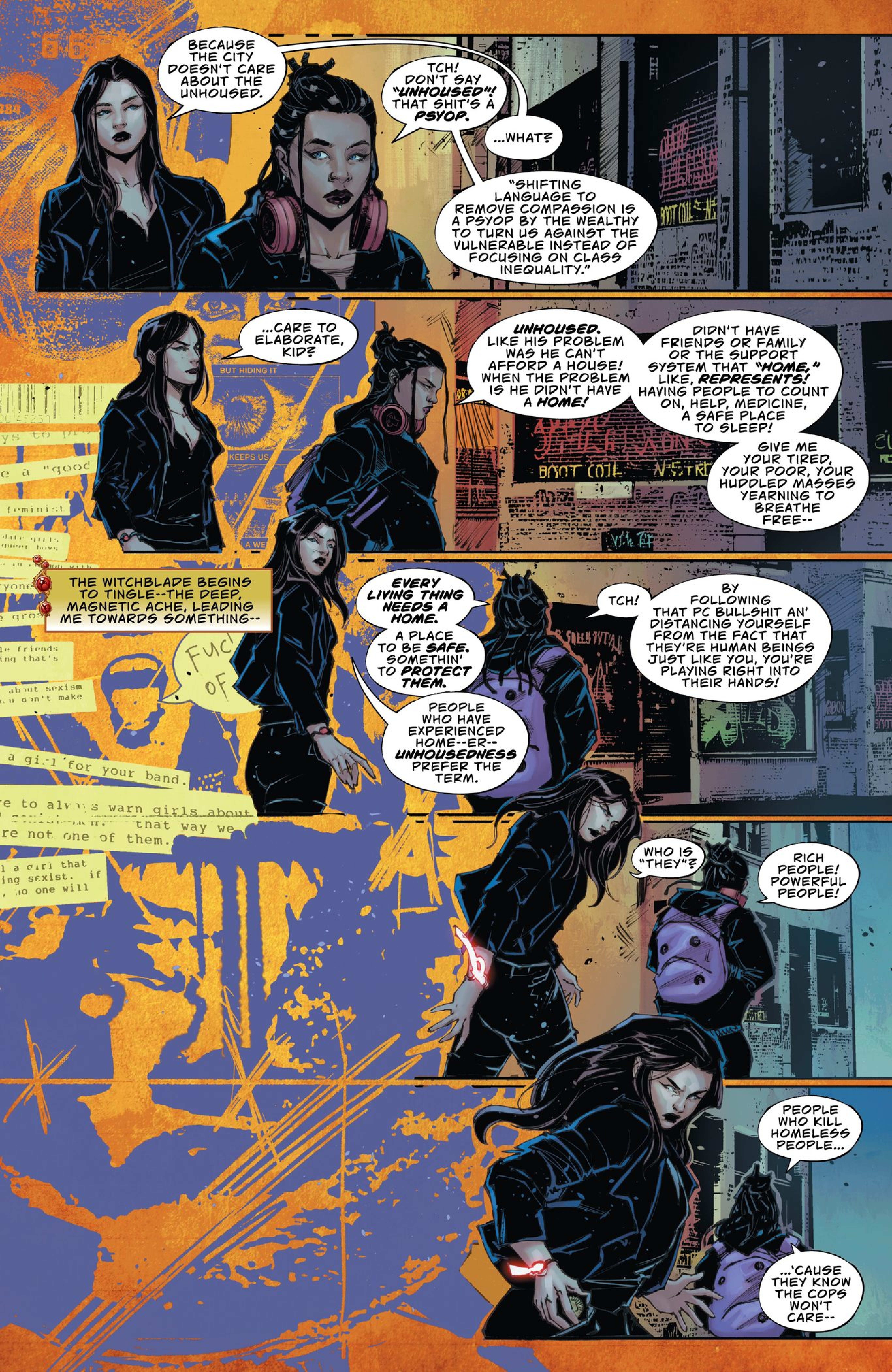

ANY OTHER HOMICIDES IN A 12-BLOCK RADIUS?
YOU GOTTA BE SMART AROUND HERE.
=SKRRZZT=
COP ISN'T GOING TO PAY YOUR RENT AFTER YOU'RE INJURED ON THE JOB, BUT THE DEALER ON THE FOURTH FLOOR MIGHT, SINCE YOU GO TO CHURCH WITH HIS MAMA.
COP ASKS TO COME INTO YOUR APARTMENT ON AN "UNRELATED MATTER," DOESN'T LIKE YOUR ANSWERS, AN' SUDDENLY YOU'RE BUSTED FOR SOMETHIN' YOU AIN'T TOUCHED SINCE COLLEGE.
NEVER TALK TO THE COPS WITHOUT A LAWYER.
MY GRANDDAD LOVES ANCIENT ROME, AN' HE ALWAYS SAYS, "WHO WATCHES THE WATCHMEN?"

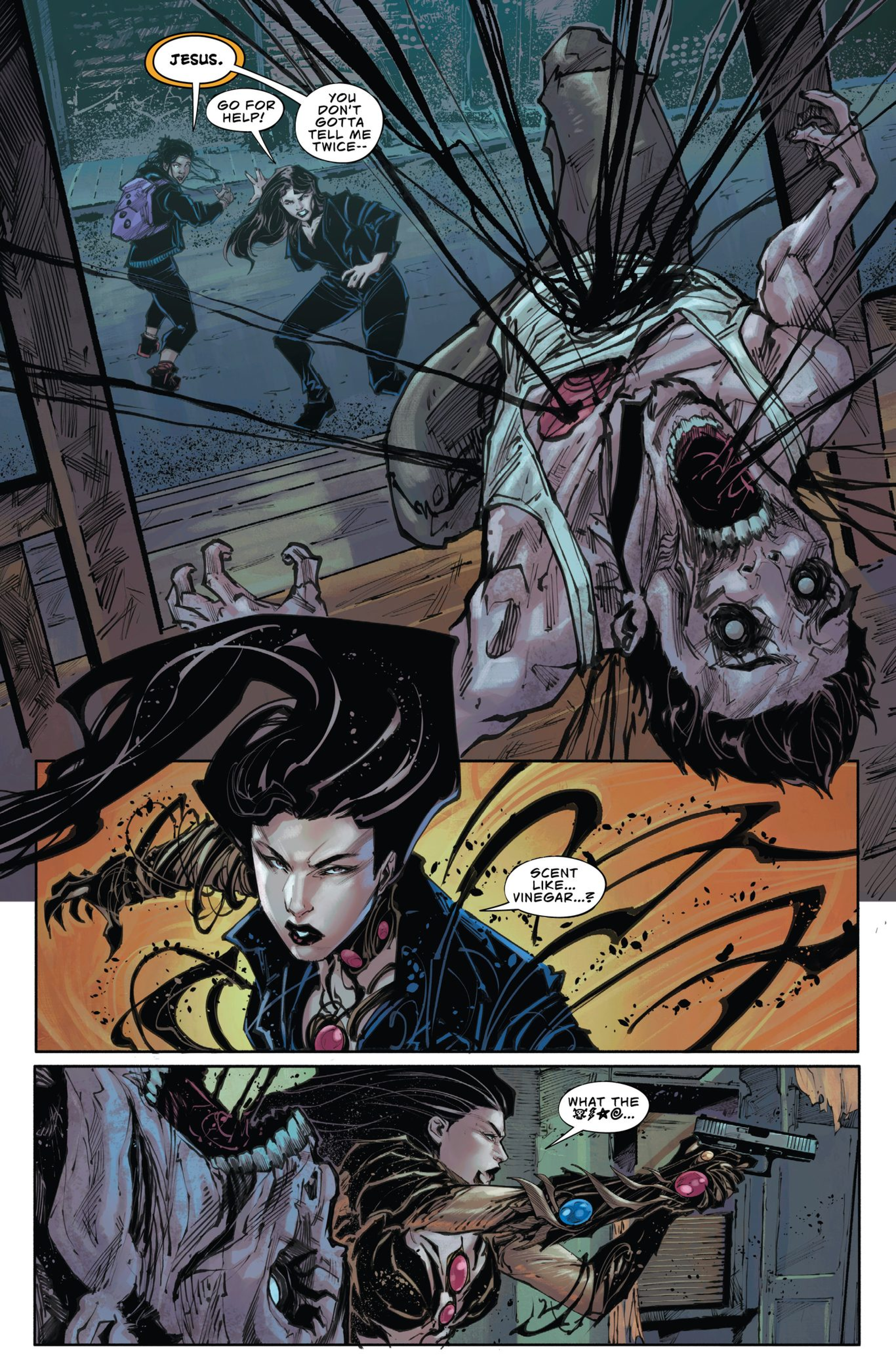

COULD YOU ACT LIKE YOU WERE WORTH THE METAL TO MAKE YOUR BADGE FOR FIVE ☠⚡★@ MINUTES, FONTAINE?
THE MINUTE MICHAEL YEE IS CLEARED FROM DESK DUTY, YOU CAN GET BACK TO BOSSING HIM AROUND.
BUT AS LONG AS *I'M* YOUR PARTNER, YOU DON'T TELL ME ✱⚡✲●.
SLITTING A MAN'S THROAT AND MAKING A BREAK FOR IT...THAT'S A THIRTY-SECOND JOB.
BUT WHY STICK AROUND TO PAINT A MURAL OVER A DEAD MAN?
THAT WOULD TAKE ***HOURS,*** AND NO ONE SAW A THING.
SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE... THE EDGES DON'T LINE UP-- THERE SHOULD BE OLD PAINT UNDER THE NEW.
BUT THERE ***ISN'T.*** THE OLD PAINT IS COMPLETELY GONE.
THE KILLER DIDN'T PAINT OVER THE MURAL...
THE MURAL... ***REARRANGED ITSELF.***
WHAT. THE. ☠⚡★@.
YOU'VE BEEN SNEAKING AROUND HERE SINCE DAWN.
I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHIN'!
NAW, BUT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN SCHOOL, AREN'T YOU?
FONTAINE!

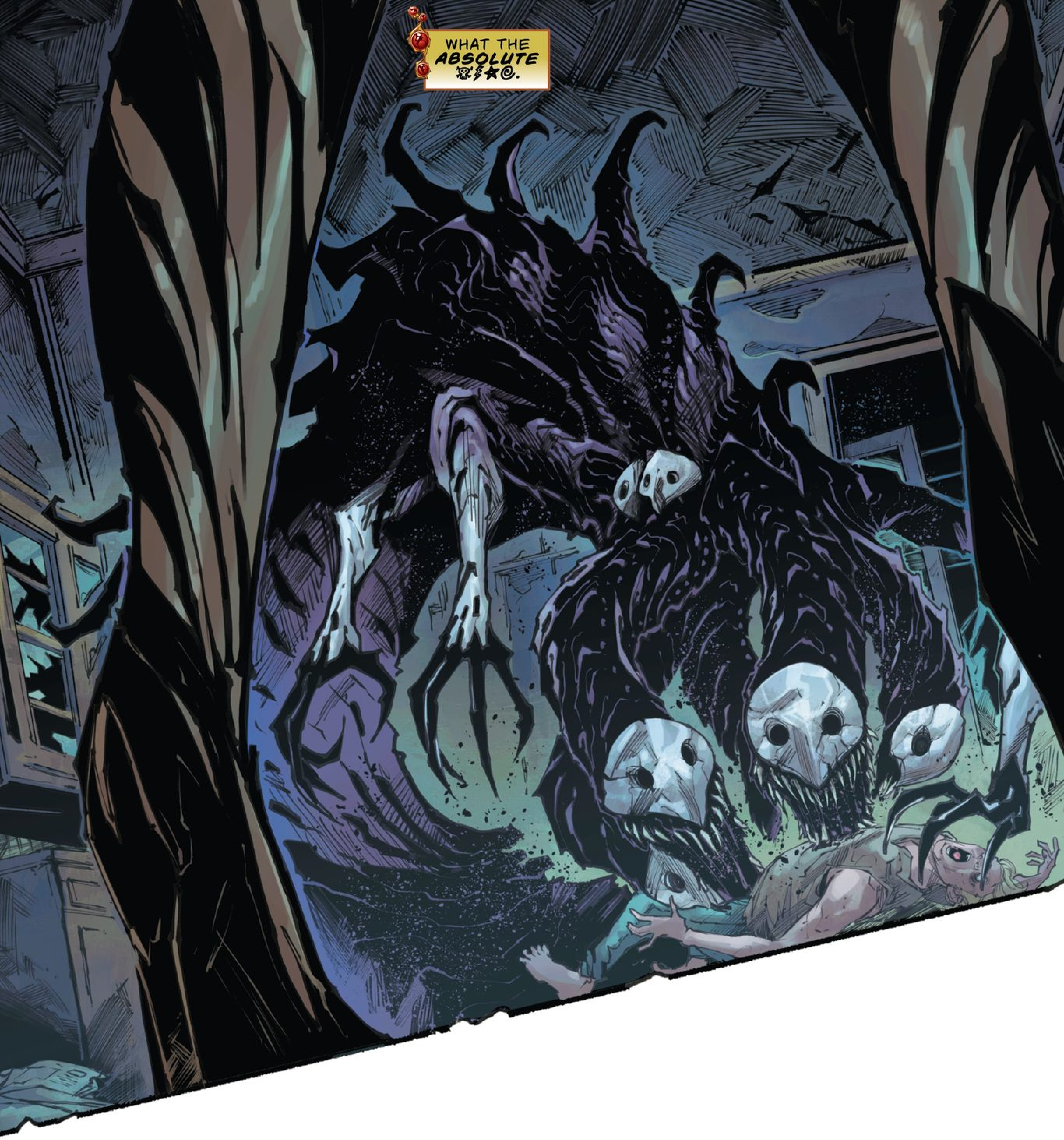

THE PRECINCT.
"LET HER GO, FONTAINE--!"
"WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON, PEZZINI? THIS IS TRUANCY, AND--HEY, WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?"
SOCIAL TEES
PLAIN SIGHT, LAWFUL ACCESS, IMMEDIATELY INCRIMINATING.
MY BACK-PACK WASN'T UNZIPPED!
CAN YOU PROVE THAT?
FONTAINE.
DON'T TALK TO THE COPS WITHOUT A LAWYER.
BUT IF MY GRANDPARENTS FIND OUT I'VE BEEN PICKED UP AGAIN...
"MARALISA BÚZIO."
"JUST LISA."
STILL A MINOR AND ALREADY GOT A RAP SHEET!
SHOPLIFTING--
WE WERE HUNGRY.
--FIGHTING AT SCHOOL--
THEY JUMPED MY COUSIN.
--AND SPITTING ON A PASTOR.
SOME NASTY READING FOR A TEENAGE GIRL.
DEVILS, DEMONS, HUMAN SACRIFICE, WITCH BURNINGS...AND UFOS, BIGFOOT, AND EVERY CONSPIRACY THEORY SINCE JFK.

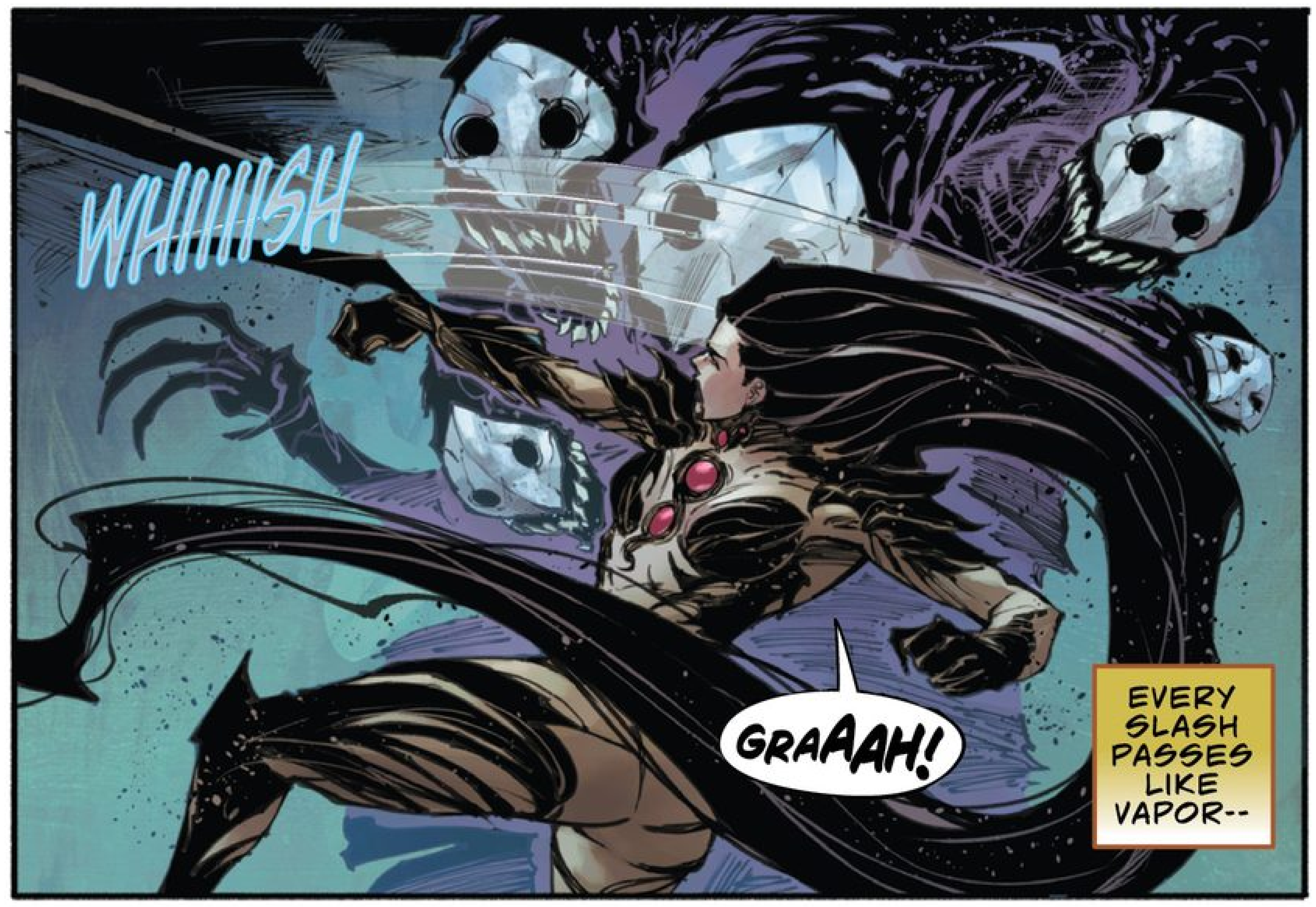

I LIKE MYTHOLOGY.
OLD AND NEW.
GIRL WITH AN INTEREST IN **ART AND THE OCCULT,** JUST SO HAPPENS TO BE AT THE SCENE OF A MURDER WHERE THE KILLER SIGNED THEIR WORK IN **A GIANT DESECRATION OF A HOLY ICON...**
WE'VE GOT YOUR FINGERPRINTS ON FILE, LISA.
AND WE'VE GOT YOUR FINGERPRINTS IN THE SPRAY PAINT ABOVE OUR MURDER VIC.
NO, YOU DON'T.
ANOTHER THING--THE COPS ARE ALLOWED TO LIE TO YOU.
THEY CAN SAY THEY GOT YOUR HAIR, DNA, VIDEO FOOTAGE, WHATEVER.
THEY'RE TRYIN' TO SCARE YOU INTO THINKIN' A JURY WILL GIVE YOU THE NEEDLE, SO YOU CONFESS TO SOMETHIN' SMALLER, WHETHER YOU DID IT OR NOT.
MY GRANDMA **LOVES** COLD WAR SPY THRILLERS, AN' ALWAYS SAYS, "SHOW ME A MAN, AND I'LL SHOW YOU HIS CRIME."
GO AHEAD AN' CRAWL ON DOWN TO THE DA'S OFFICE AN' TRY TO GET A WARRANT ON EVIDENCE THAT DOESN'T EXIST.
I'LL WAIT.
Spiritbox
NERV
JINJER
I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, LISA.
✸#✱✲ MY ✹●✹✫✫.

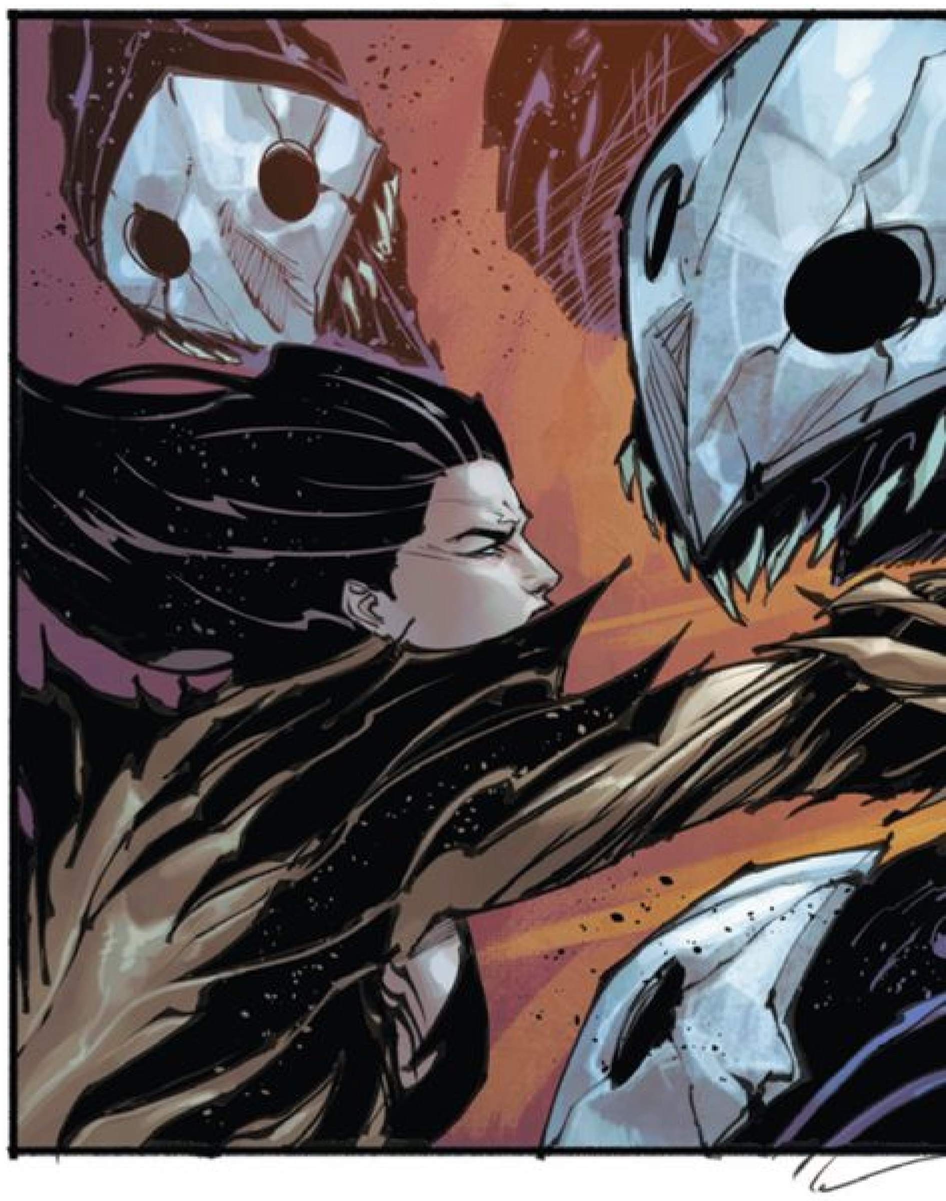

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE FOLLOWIN' ME.
I AIN'T GOT #$*💣 TO SAY TO YOU.
I'M SORRY THAT HAPPENED.
YEAH, I BET YOU ARE. **REALLY** TRIED TO PROTECT ME IN THERE, DIDN'T YOU?
I HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY.
GOTTA PRETEND TO BE A BAD APPLE RIGHT NOW.
YOU KNOW THE SAYIN' ABOUT ***A FEW BAD APPLES,*** DON'T YOU?
"A FEW BAD APPLES ***SPOIL THE BUNCH.***"
CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
TCH.
WHY'D YOU CALL IN THE BODY?
WHAT KIND OF QUESTION IS THAT?
HALF A HUNDRED PEOPLE WALKED BY HIS BODY. YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE TO CALL IT.
THEY... THEY MIGHT NOT'VE REALIZED HE WAS DEAD.
BUT WHY ***YOU?***
I DON'T KNOW! ***WHO ELSE IF NOT ME?!***
WHY DO YOU CARE?
WHY DO YOU CARE? YOUR ***POS PARTNER*** SURE AS #$*💣 DOESN'T! NEITHER DID ANY OF THE EMTS! NOT ONE DAMN REPORTER ON THE SCENE!

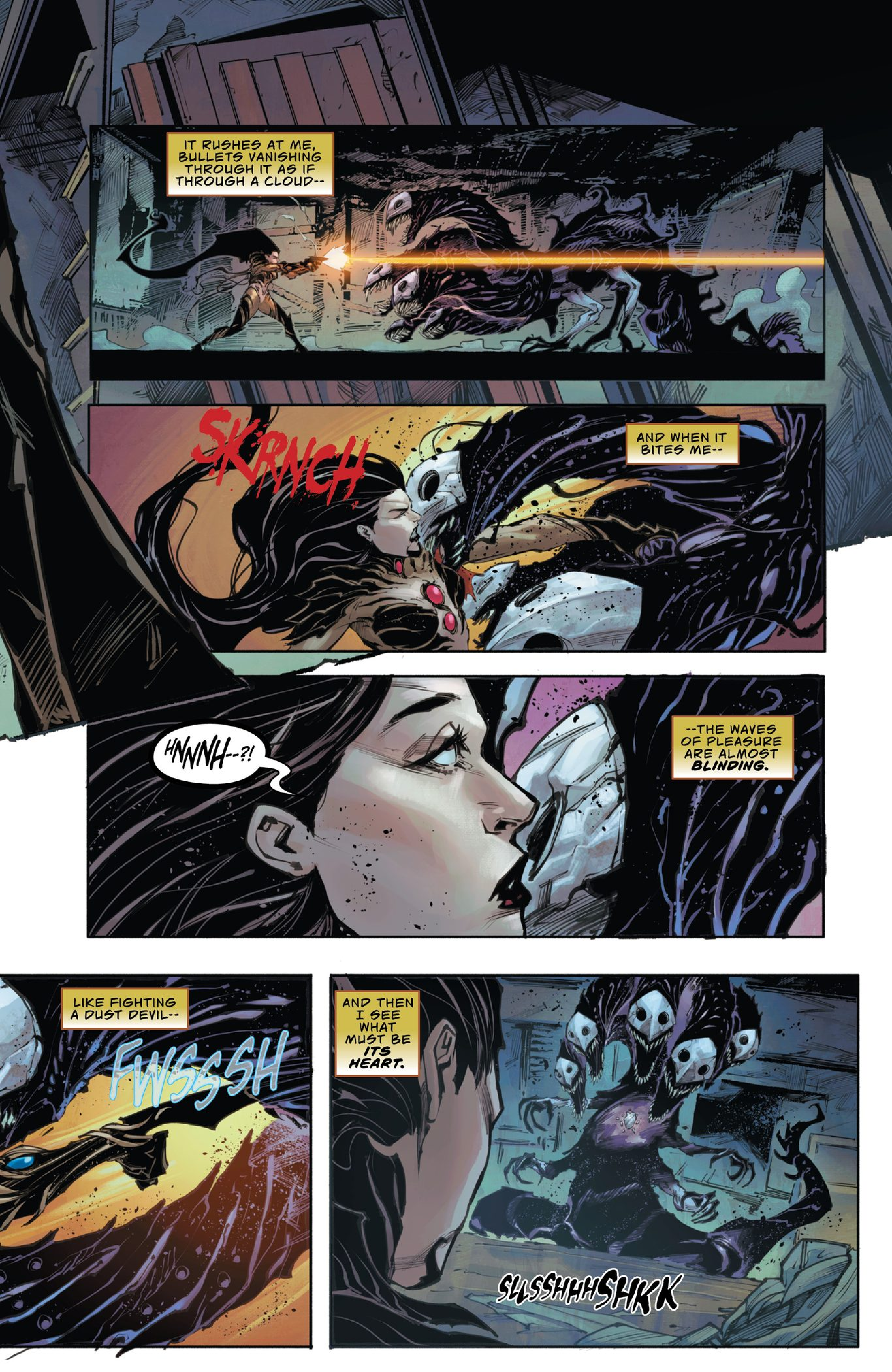

BECAUSE THE CITY DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THE UNHOUSED.
TCH! DON'T SAY "UNHOUSED"! THAT SHIT'S A PSYOP.
...WHAT?
"SHIFTING LANGUAGE TO REMOVE COMPASSION IS A PSYOP BY THE WEALTHY TO TURN US AGAINST THE VULNERABLE INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON CLASS INEQUALITY."
...CARE TO ELABORATE, KID?
UNHOUSED. LIKE HIS PROBLEM WAS HE CAN'T AFFORD A HOUSE! WHEN THE PROBLEM IS HE DIDN'T HAVE A HOME!
DIDN'T HAVE FRIENDS OR FAMILY OR THE SUPPORT SYSTEM THAT "HOME," LIKE, REPRESENTS! HAVING PEOPLE TO COUNT ON, HELP, MEDICINE, A SAFE PLACE TO SLEEP!
GIVE ME YOUR TIRED, YOUR POOR, YOUR HUDDLED MASSES YEARNING TO BREATHE FREE--
THE WITCHBLADE BEGINS TO TINGLE--THE DEEP, MAGNETIC ACHE, LEADING ME TOWARDS SOMETHING--
EVERY LIVING THING NEEDS A HOME.
A PLACE TO BE SAFE. SOMETHIN' TO PROTECT THEM.
PEOPLE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED HOME--ER--UNHOUSEDNESS PREFER THE TERM.
TCH!
BY FOLLOWING THAT PC BULLSHIT AN' DISTANCING YOURSELF FROM THE FACT THAT THEY'RE HUMAN BEINGS JUST LIKE YOU, YOU'RE PLAYING RIGHT INTO THEIR HANDS!
WHO IS "THEY"?
RICH PEOPLE! POWERFUL PEOPLE!
PEOPLE WHO KILL HOMELESS PEOPLE...
...'CAUSE THEY KNOW THE COPS WON'T CARE--
BUT HIDING IT
KEEPS US
a gi-l for your band.
re to always warn girls about
that way we
re not one of them.
BOOT COIL

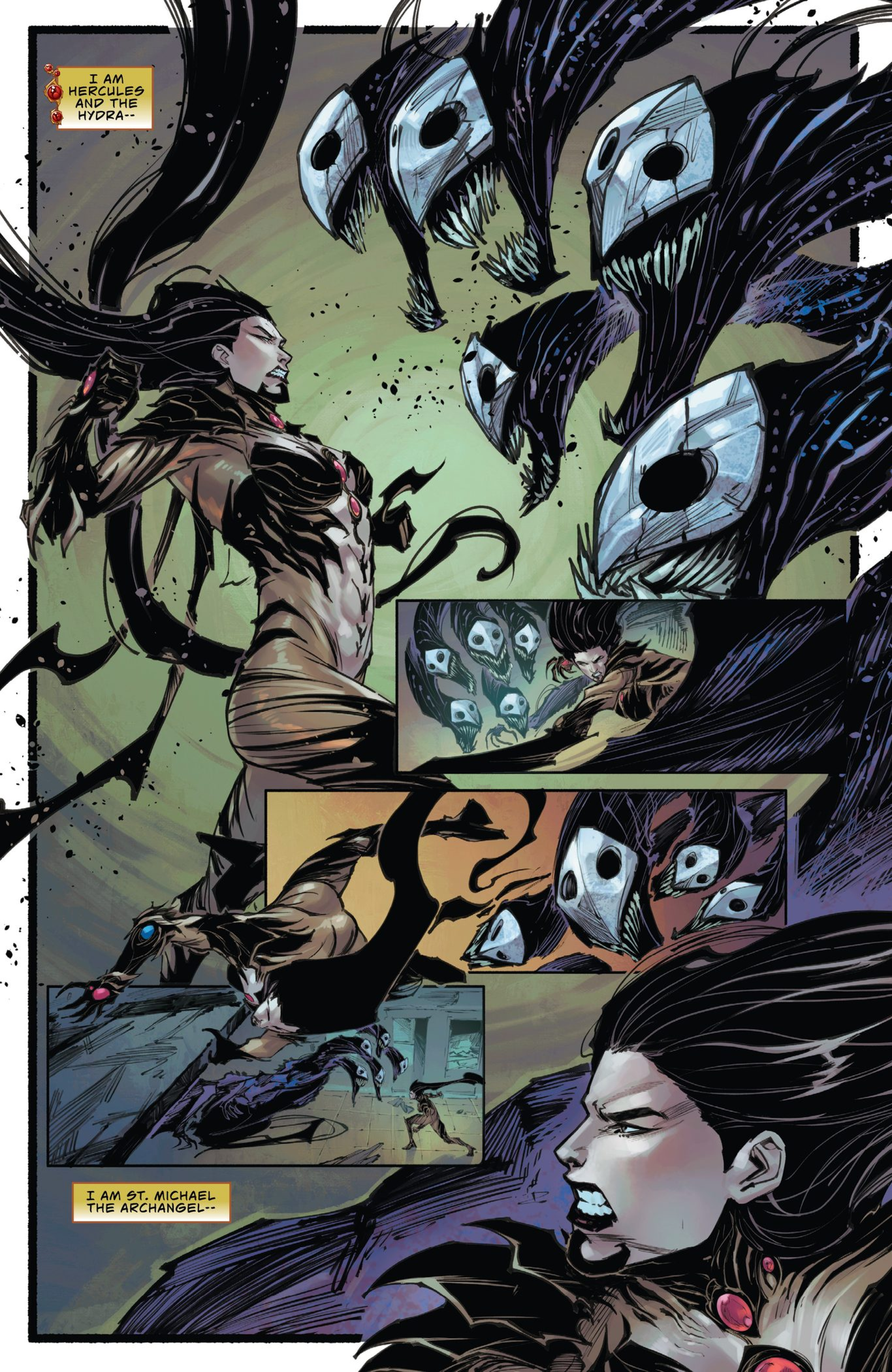

JESUS.
GO FOR HELP!
YOU DON'T GOTTA TELL ME TWICE--
SCENT LIKE... VINEGAR...?
WHAT THE ☠⚡★@...

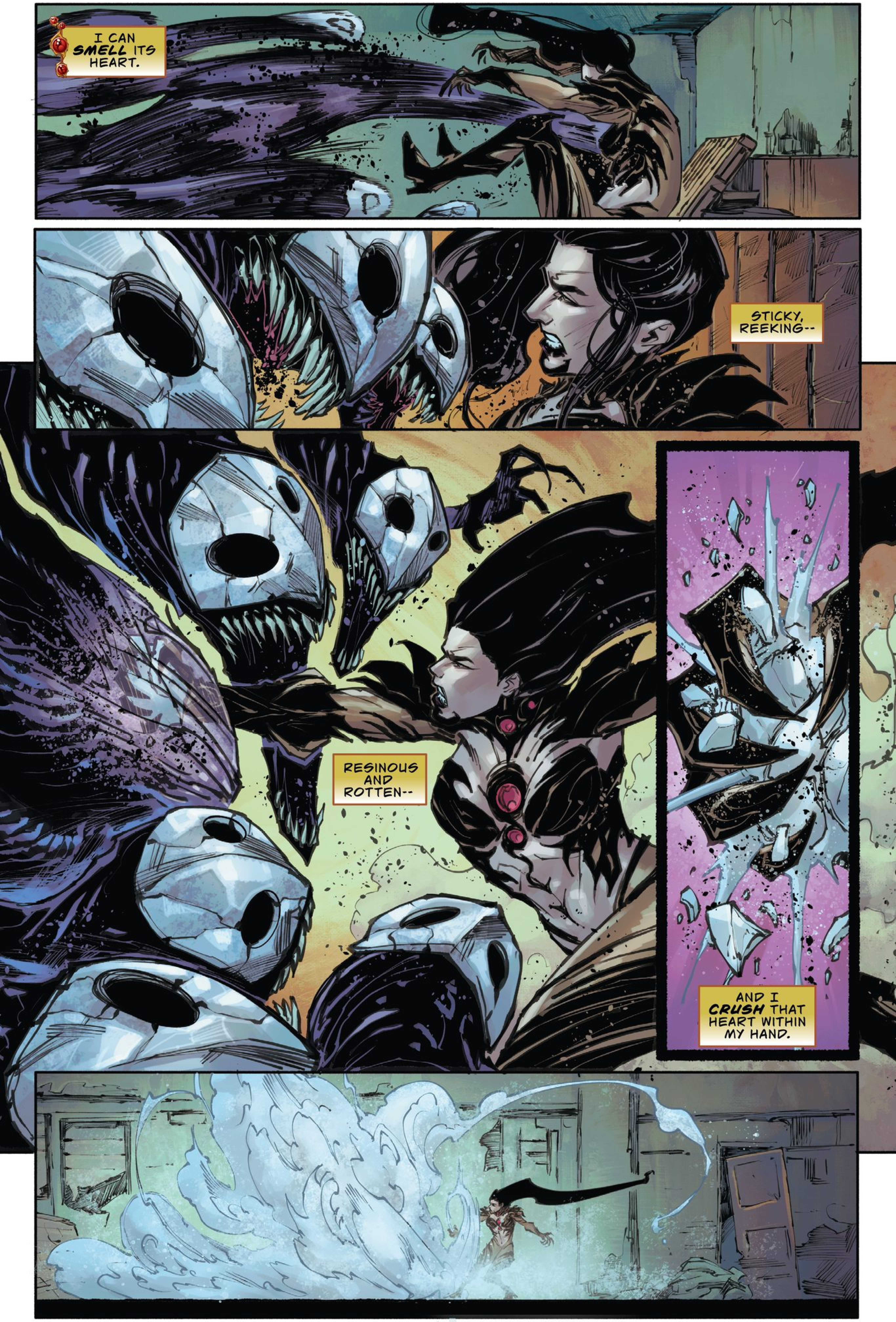

WHAT THE *ABSOLUTE* ☠⚡★@.

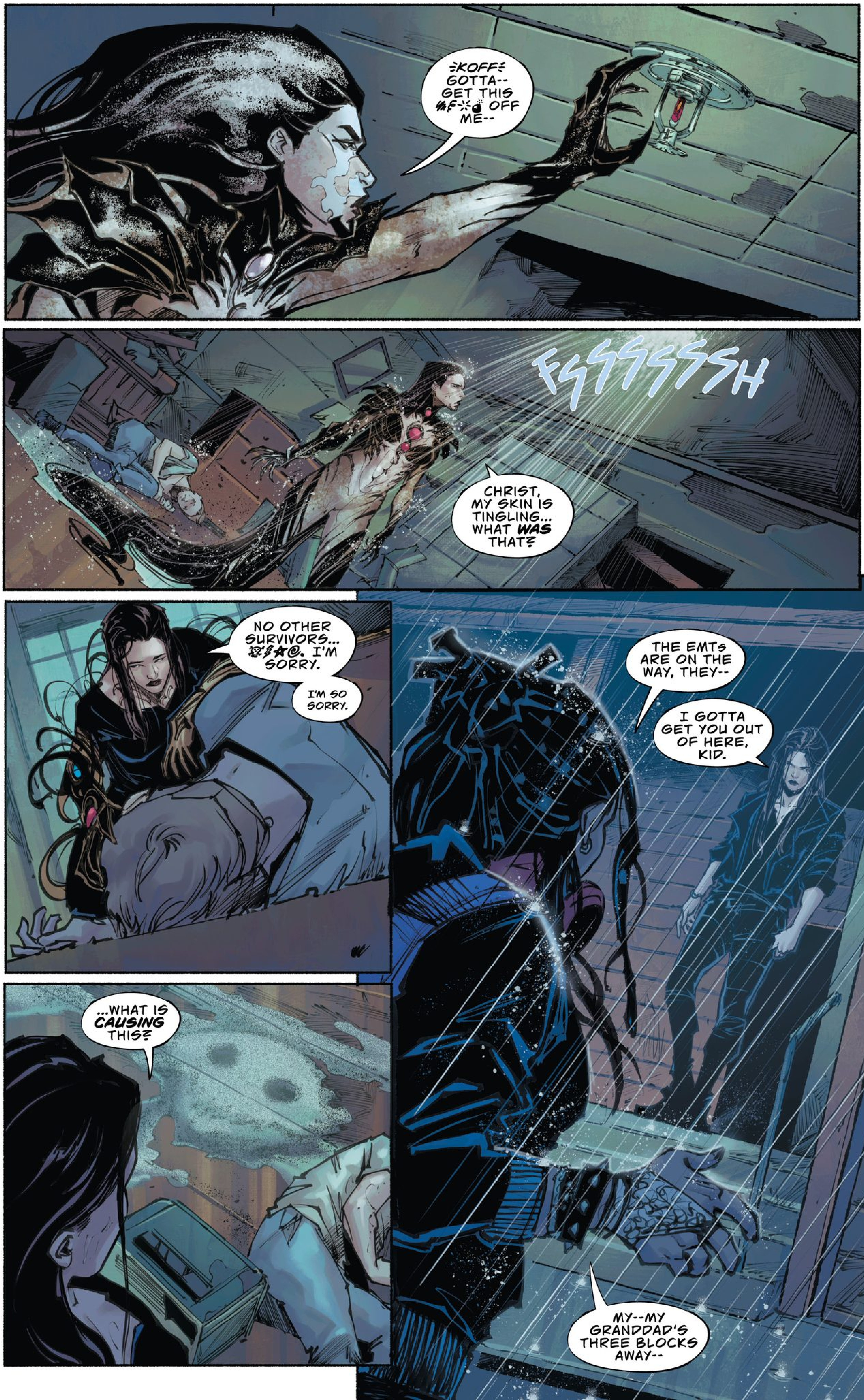

WHIIIISH
GRAAAH!
EVERY SLASH PASSES LIKE VAPOR--

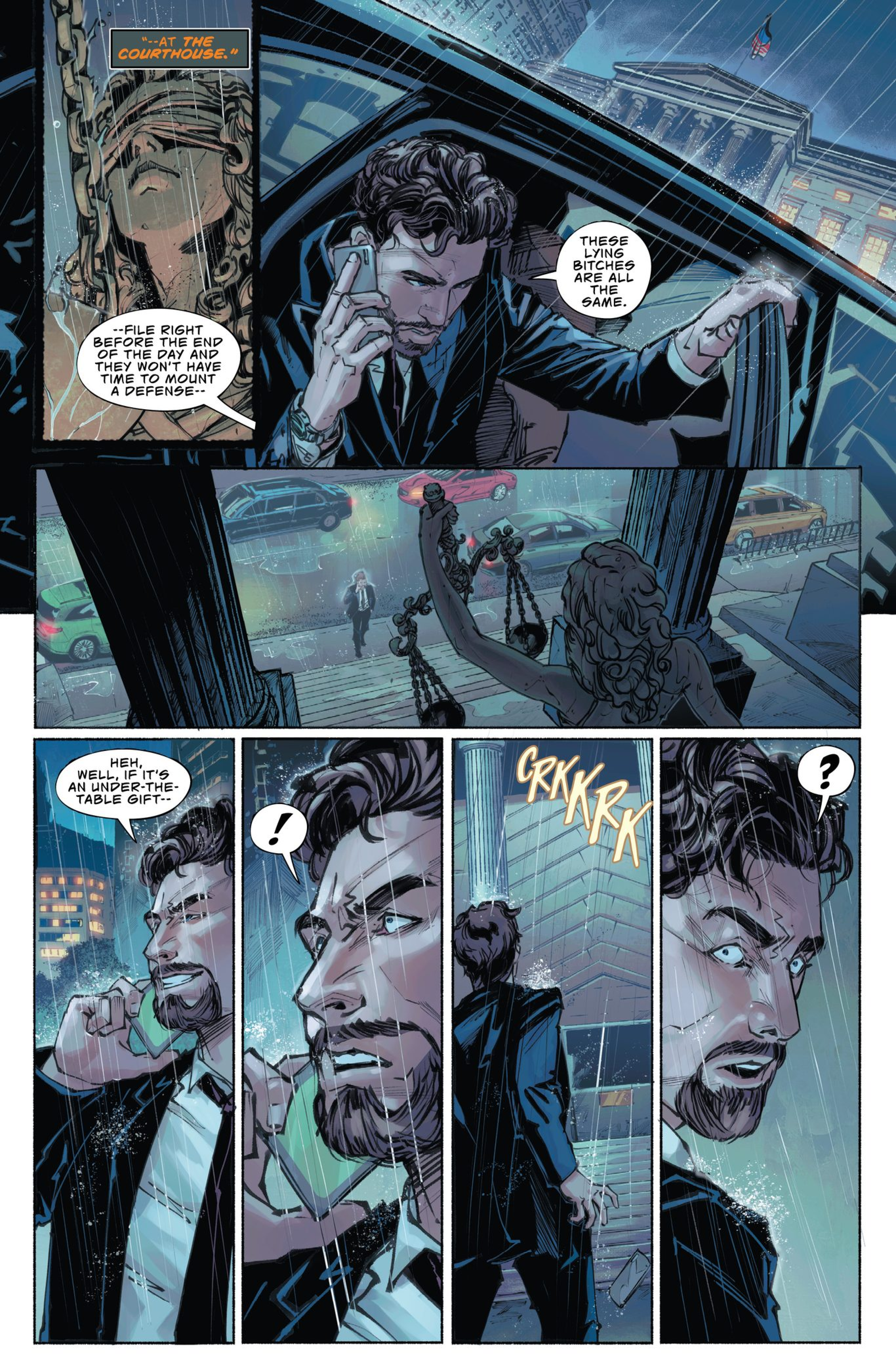


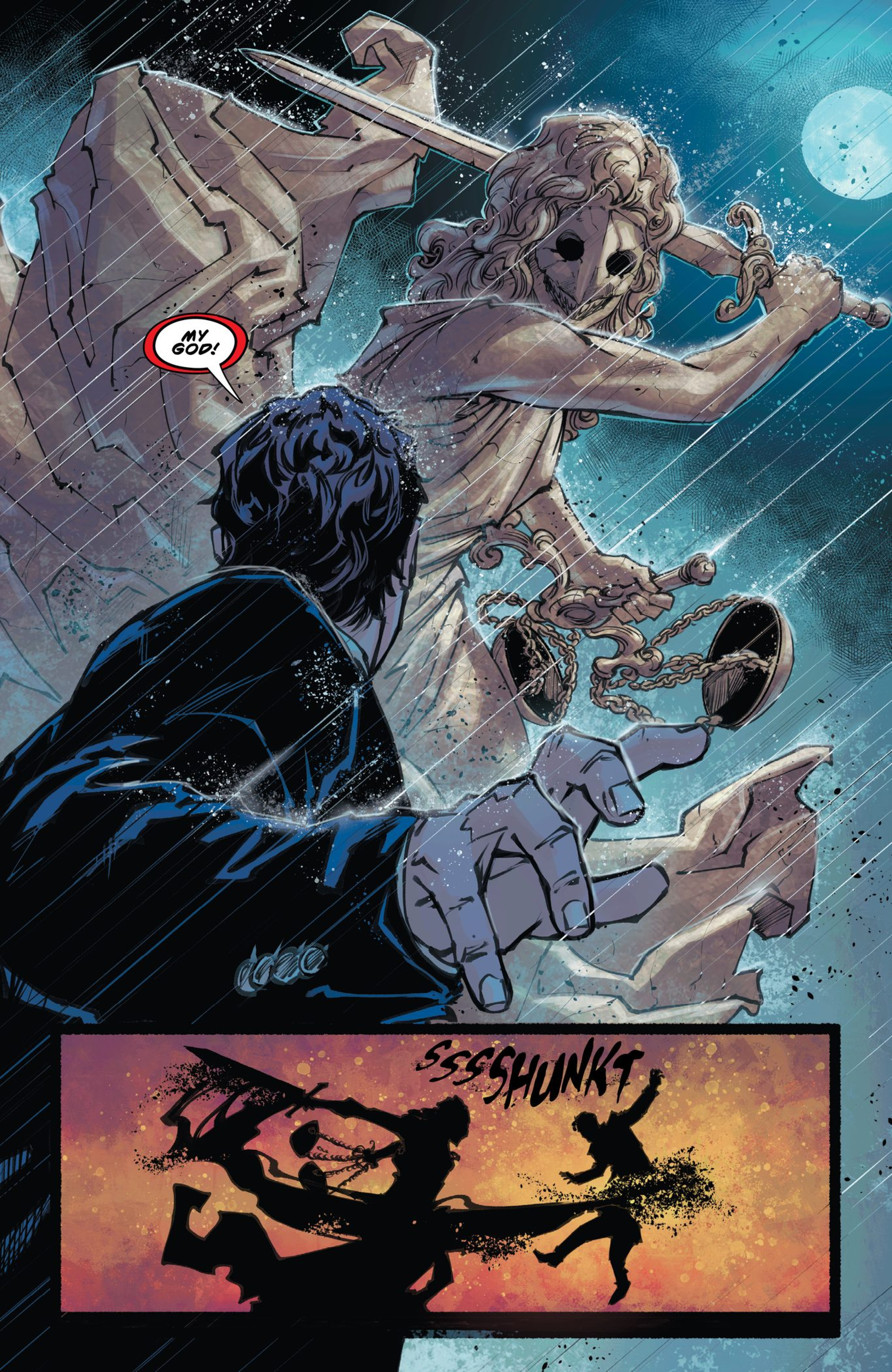

IT RUSHES AT ME, BULLETS VANISHING THROUGH IT AS IF THROUGH A CLOUD--
SKRNCH
AND WHEN IT BITES ME--
HNNNH--?!
--THE WAVES OF PLEASURE ARE ALMOST *BLINDING.*
LIKE FIGHTING A DUST DEVIL--
FWSSSH
AND THEN I SEE WHAT MUST BE *ITS HEART.*
SLLSSHHHSHKK

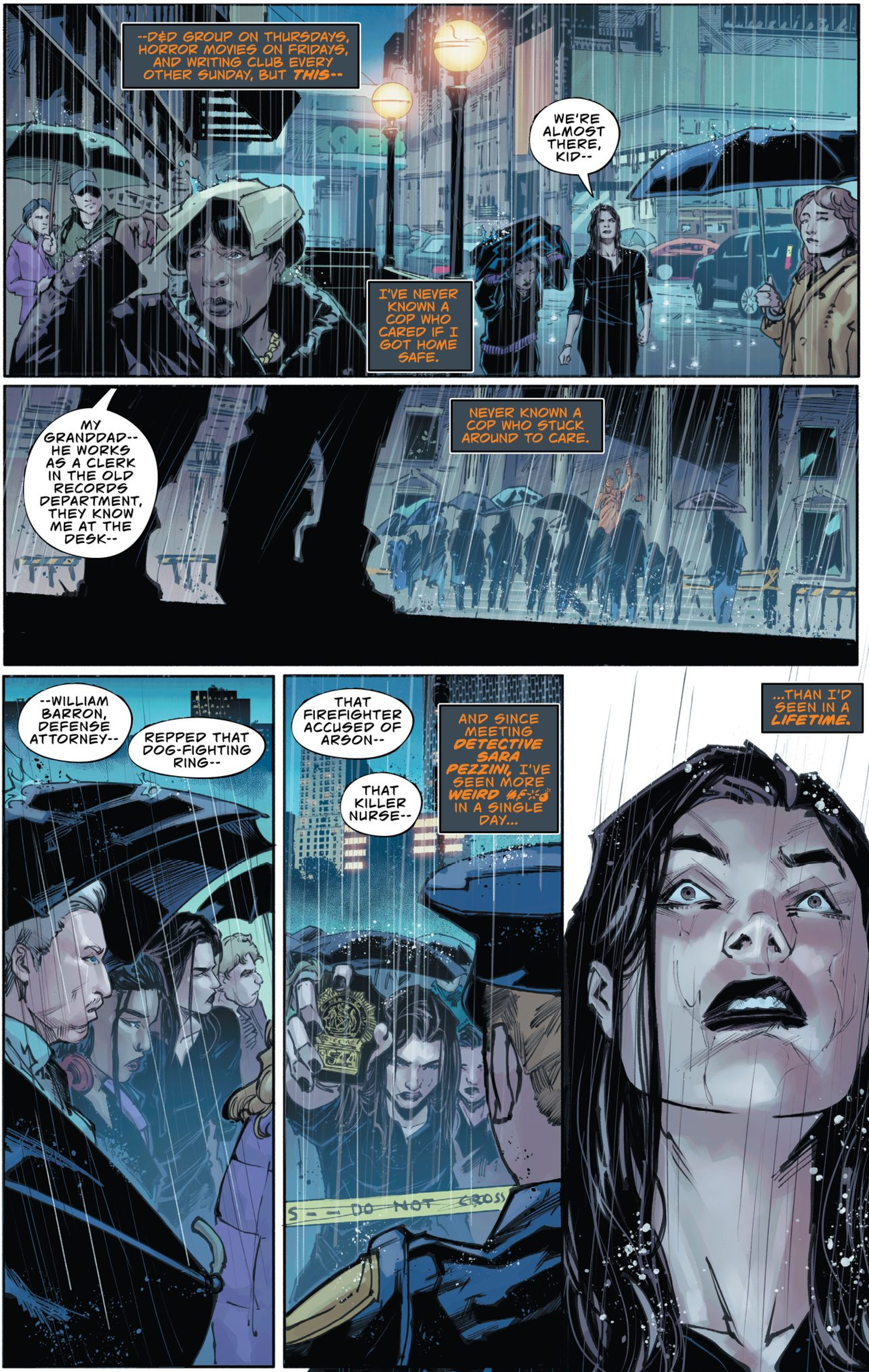

I AM HERCULES AND THE HYDRA--
I AM ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL--

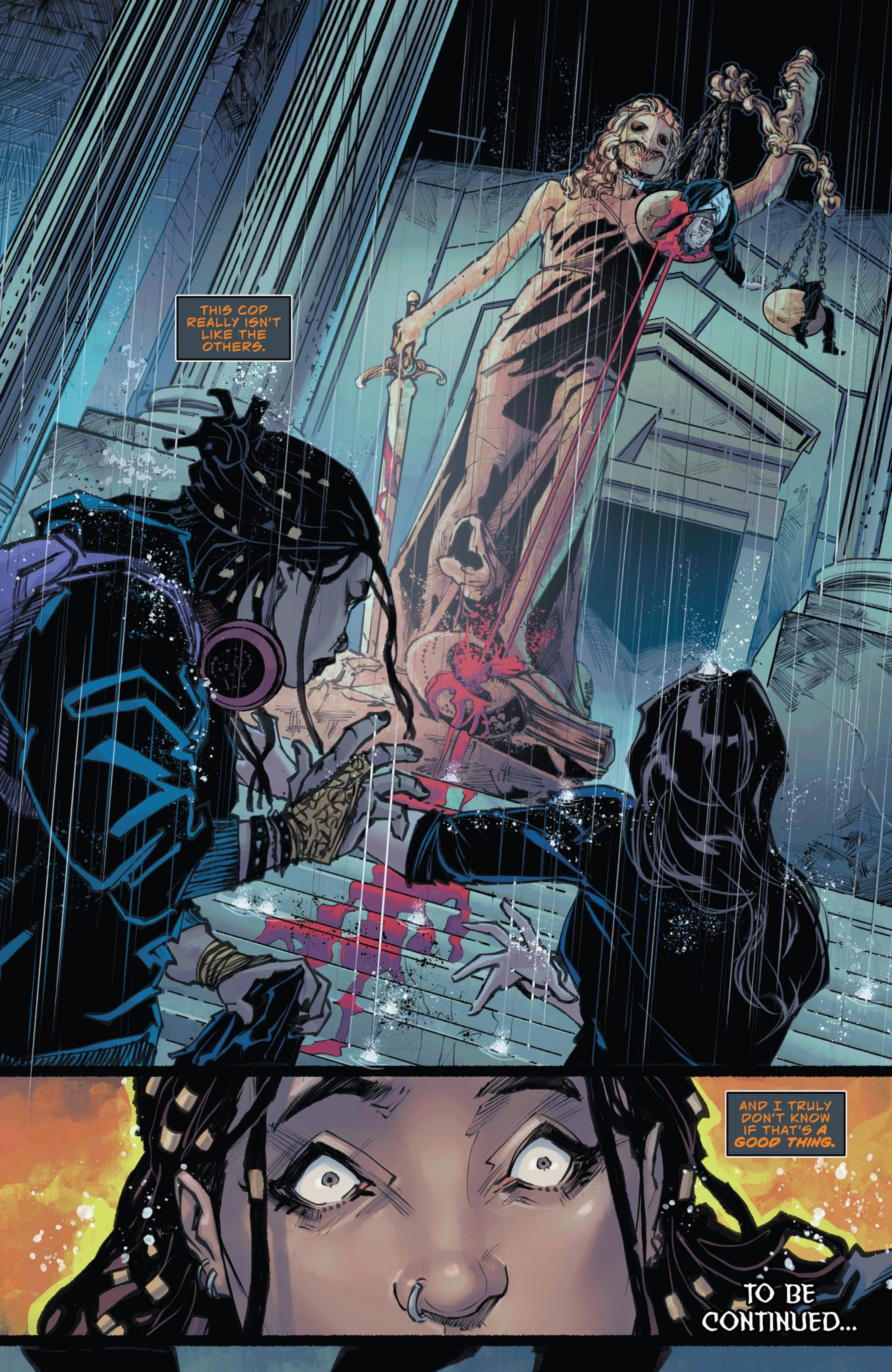

I CAN SMELL ITS HEART.
STICKY, REEKING--
RESINOUS AND ROTTEN--
AND I CRUSH THAT HEART WITHIN MY HAND.


KOFF GOTTA-- GET THIS #$*@ OFF ME--
FSSSSSSH
CHRIST, MY SKIN IS TINGLING... WHAT **WAS** THAT?
NO OTHER SURVIVORS... #$*@. I'M SORRY.
I'M SO SORRY.
...WHAT IS ***CAUSING*** THIS?
THE EMTs ARE ON THE WAY, THEY--
I GOTTA GET YOU OUT OF HERE, KID.
MY--MY GRANDDAD'S THREE BLOCKS AWAY--

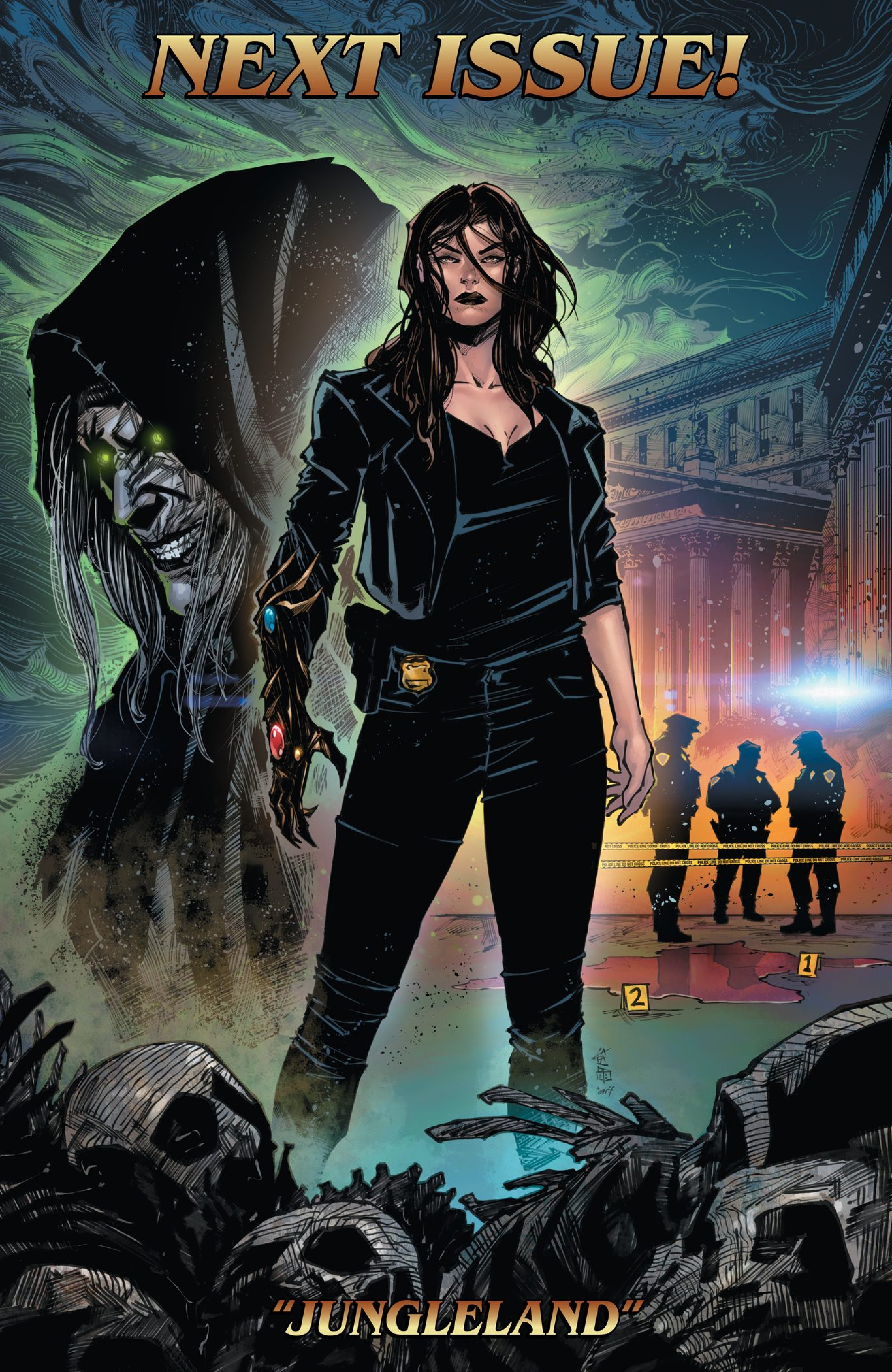

"--AT THE COURTHOUSE."
--FILE RIGHT BEFORE THE END OF THE DAY AND THEY WON'T HAVE TIME TO MOUNT A DEFENSE--
THESE LYING BITCHES ARE ALL THE SAME.
HEH, WELL, IF IT'S AN UNDER-THE-TABLE GIFT--
!
CRKKRK
?


MY GOD!
SSSSHUNKT


--D&D GROUP ON THURSDAYS, HORROR MOVIES ON FRIDAYS, AND WRITING CLUB EVERY OTHER SUNDAY, BUT *THIS*--
WE'RE ALMOST THERE, KID--
I'VE NEVER KNOWN A COP WHO CARED IF I GOT HOME SAFE.
MY GRANDDAD-- HE WORKS AS A CLERK IN THE OLD RECORDS DEPARTMENT, THEY KNOW ME AT THE DESK--
NEVER KNOWN A COP WHO STUCK AROUND TO CARE.
--WILLIAM BARRON, DEFENSE ATTORNEY--
REPPED THAT DOG-FIGHTING RING--
THAT FIREFIGHTER ACCUSED OF ARSON--
THAT KILLER NURSE--
AND SINCE MEETING ***DETECTIVE SARA PEZZINI,*** I'VE SEEN MORE ***WEIRD*** #$✲💣 IN A SINGLE DAY...
S -- DO NOT CROSS
...THAN I'D SEEN IN A ***LIFETIME.***

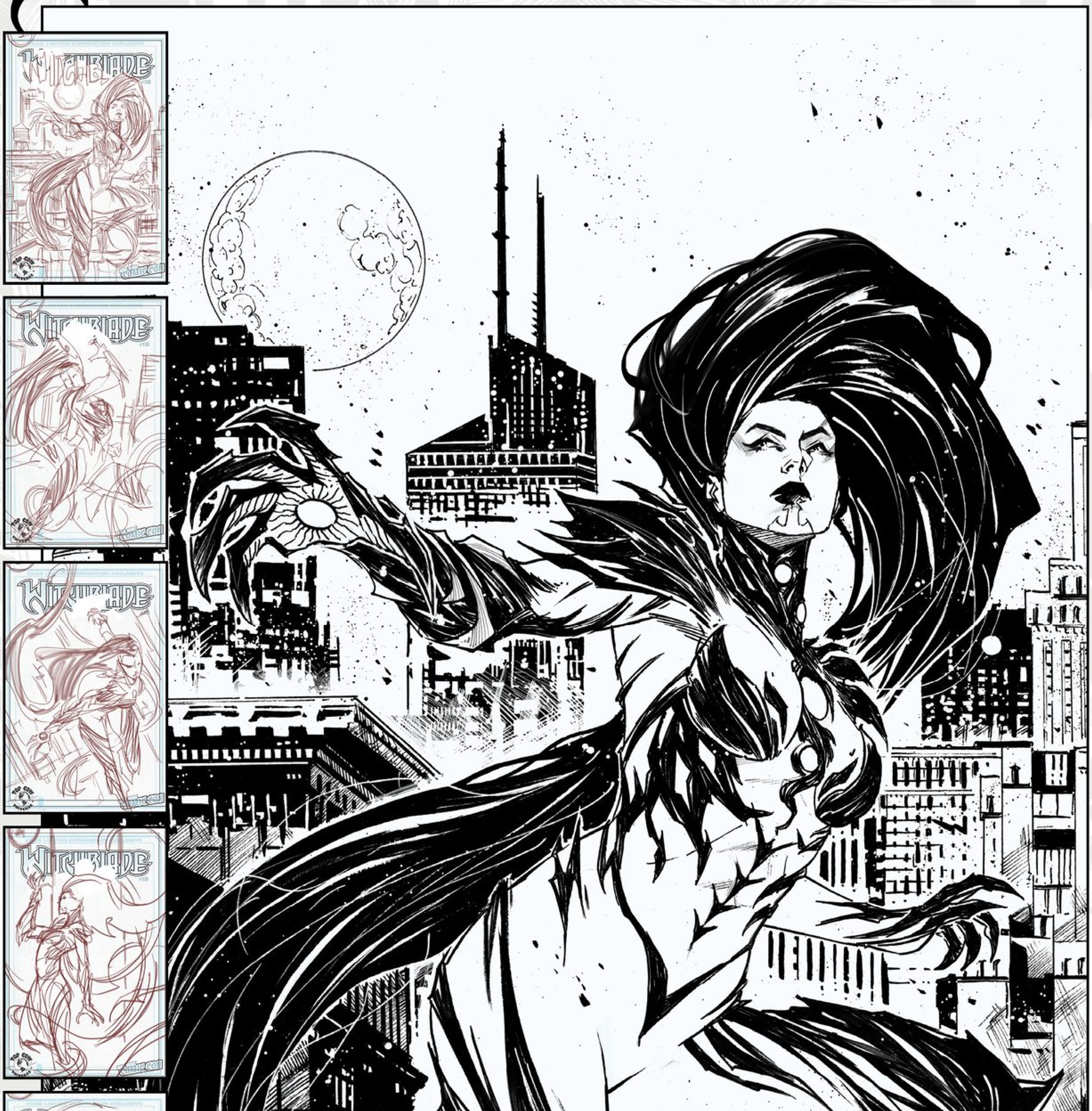

THIS COP REALLY ISN'T LIKE THE OTHERS.
AND I TRULY DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S *A GOOD THING.*
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE!


POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS
1
2

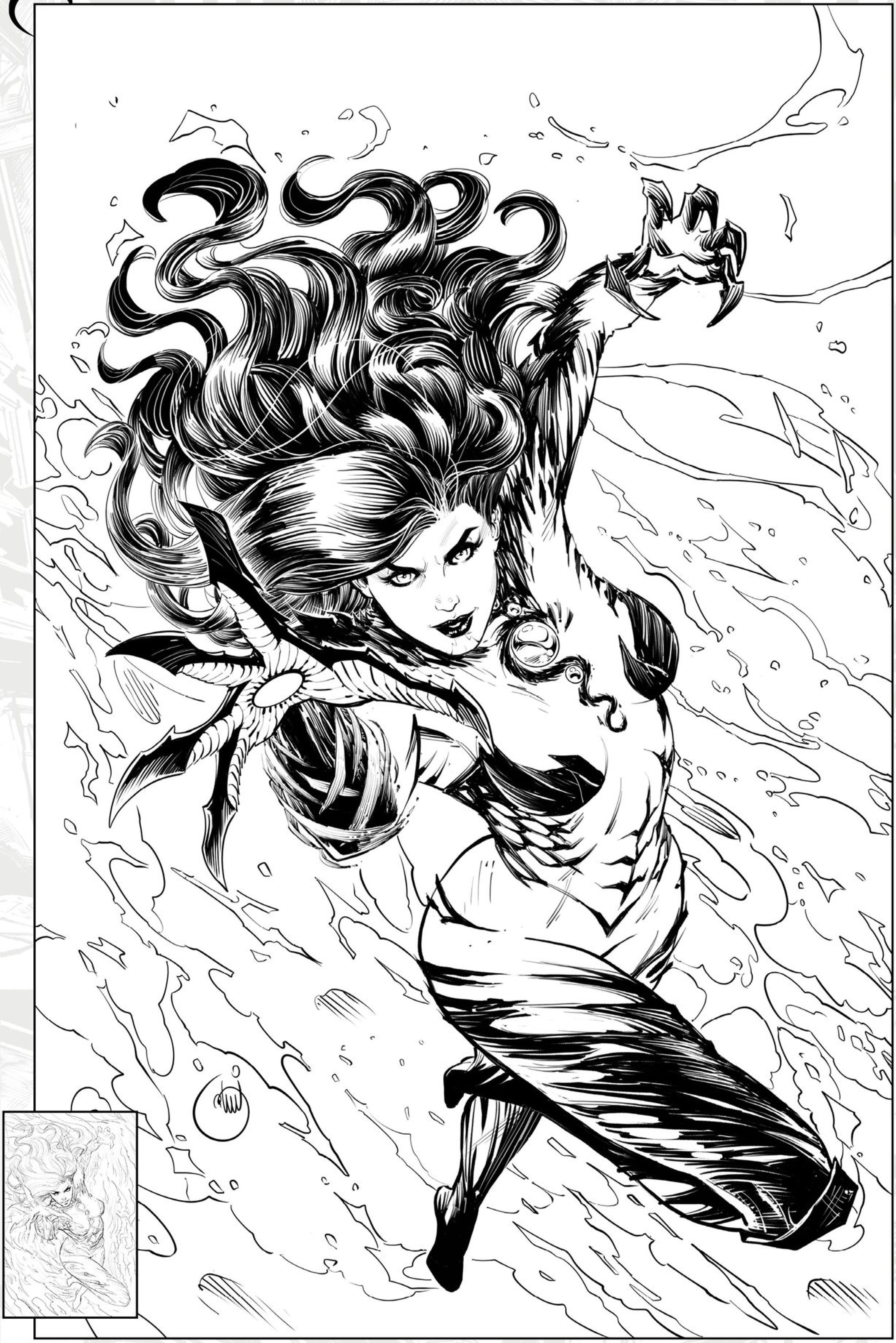
"JUNGLELAND"

WITCHBLADE #14 Gallery • Cover A Process



Witchblade #14, Cover A, process from thumbnail, line art to colors
Art by **Giuseppe Cafaro** and **Arif Prianto**

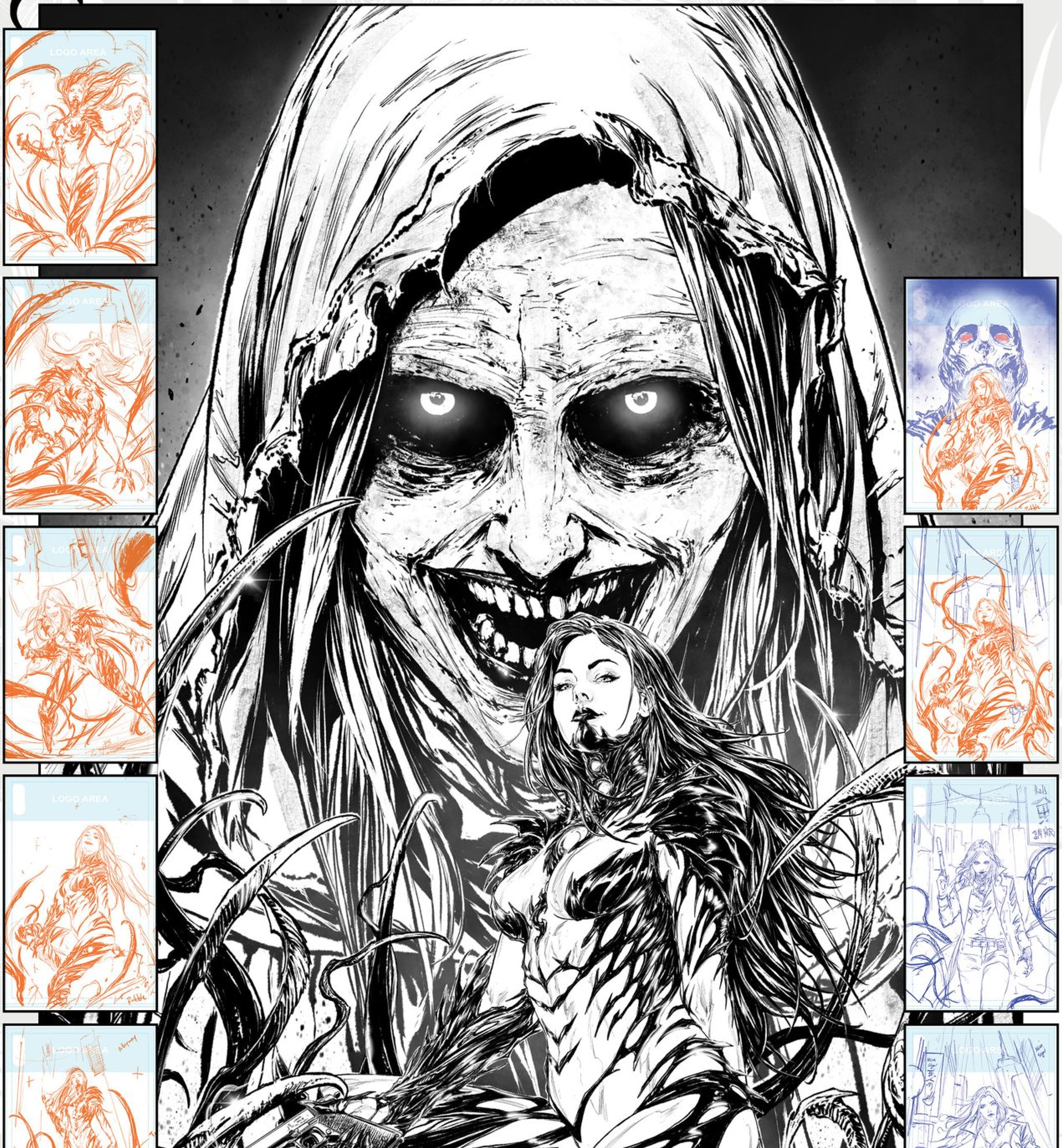
WITCHBLADE #14 Gallery • Cover B Process



Witchblade #14, Cover B and D, process from line art preliminary, line art to colors
Art by **Bruno Abdias** and **Arif Prianto**

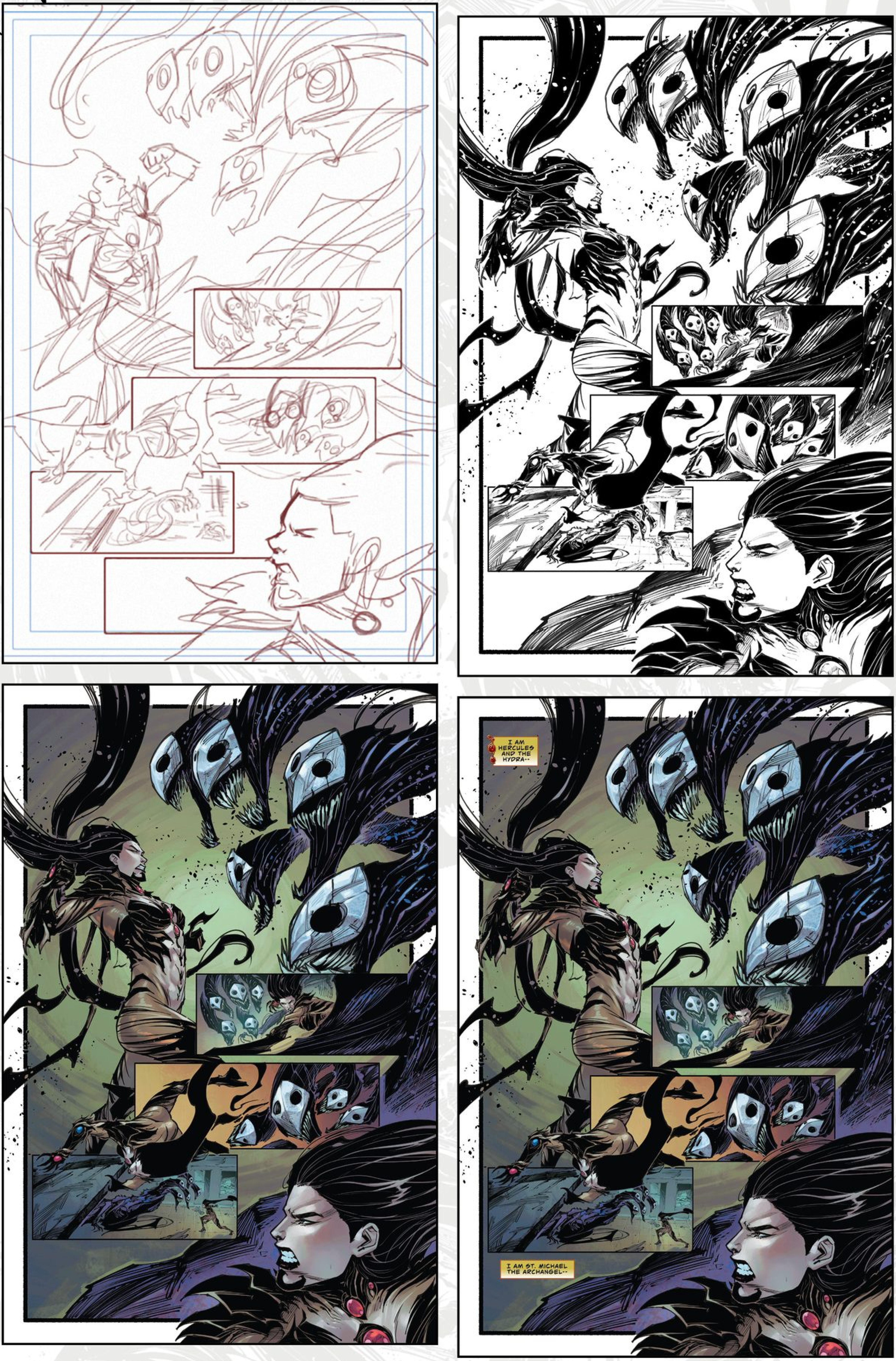
+arif

WITCHBLADE #14 Gallery • Cover C Process



Witchblade #14, Cover C, E, and Top Cow Store Spot Foil Exclusive process from thumbnail, line art to colors
Art by **Raymond Gay** and **Arif Prianto**

WITCHBLADE #14 Gallery • Page Process


I AM HERCULES AND THE HYDRA--
I AM ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL--

Witchblade #14, page 14, process from thumbnail, line art, colors to letters
Art by **Giuseppe Cafaro, Arif Prianto** and **Troy Peteri**

Creative Team

Marguerite Bennett is a GLAAD-nominated, *New York Times*-bestselling comic book writer based in Los Angeles.

Her credits include DC Comics' *Bombshells, Batwoman* and *RWBY*, along with *Animosity*, *Horde*, and *Insexts* through Aftershock Comics, and *MOTHER OF MADNESS* with *Game of Thrones* superstar Emilia Clarke for Image Comics. She has written *Mighty Morphin Power Ranger*s for Boom Studios, *Josie and the Pussycats* through Archie, *A-Force* and *Years of Future Past* at Marvel, *Red Sonja* and *Sheena* from Dynamite, and the indie horror darling *The Lot* for Bad Idea.

She is the lead writer of *Ark: The Animated Serie*s from Studio Wildcard.

Giuseppe Cafaro is an Italian artist who is based in Caserta, Italy. He started his professional career with the Italian publisher GGStudio, and right after, in 2012, he started to work for Aspen Comics on books like *Soulfire, Fathom: Kiani* and *Trish out of Water*, and Zenescope Entertainment as a cover artist for several years.

He worked over the last 10 years with other publishers, like DC Comics, on *Suicide Squad* and *Catwoman*, and Dynamite Entertainment, on *Red Sonja* and *Vampirella*. He also worked on graphic novels for Boom Studios based on the *Power Rangers* franchise.

In 2021, he collaborated with Tim Seeley and Steve Orlando on *LOADED BIBLE* for Image Comics. Also, he worked on some short stories for Heavy Metal with Blake Northcott and with Phil Smith for the book *Brik Jones: Attorney for Earth*, for his publisher Fighting Lion Comics.

Arif Prianto followed his dreams of working in comics and began his career as a professional colorist in 2007. Since then he has worked on titles from Top Cow Productions, Inc on *WITCHBLADE, THE DARKNESS*, for DC on *Batman & The Joker, Dark Knights of Steel,* and for Marvel on *Venom* and *Spider Woman*. He says that coloring comics is "the best job ever!"

Troy Peteri has been lettering comics for over 20 years and has worked for most publishers you've heard of, and plenty you haven't. He's lettered everything from *The Avengers, Iron Man, Wolverine,* and *Amazing Spider-Man* to more recent titles such as *WITCHBLADE*, *Shazam*, and his all-time favorite gig, *Batman & Joker: The Deadly Duo*.

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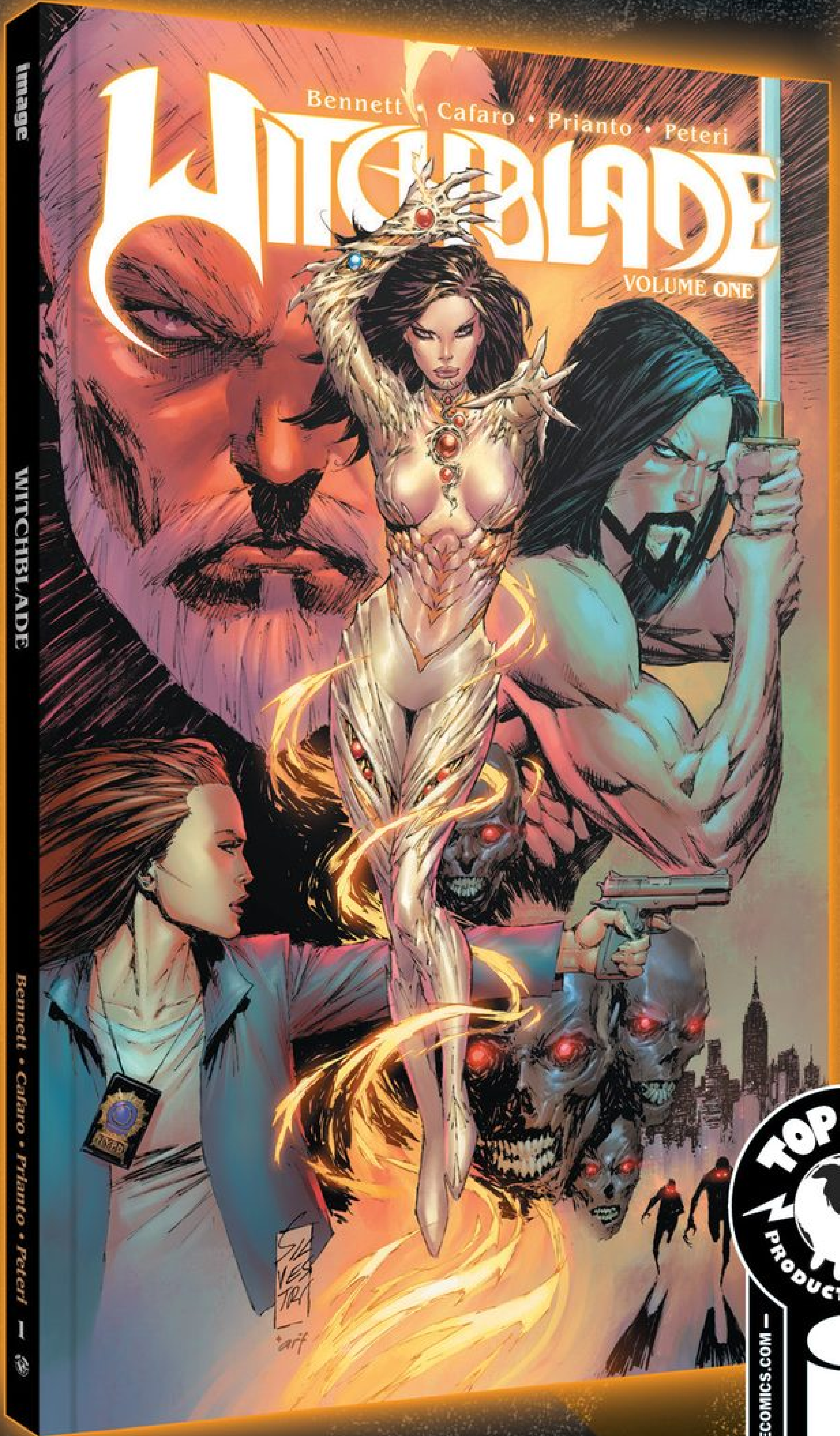
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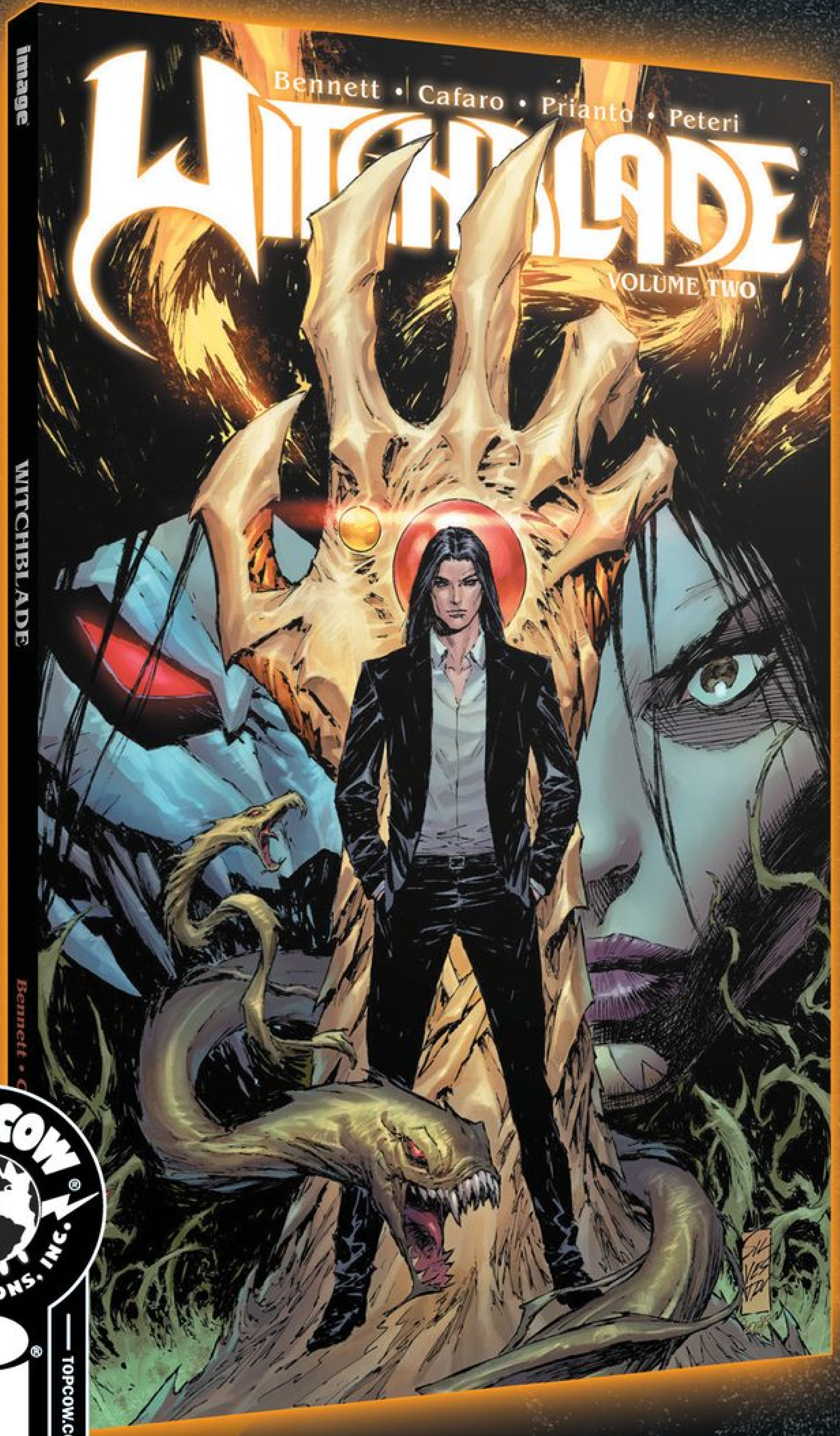
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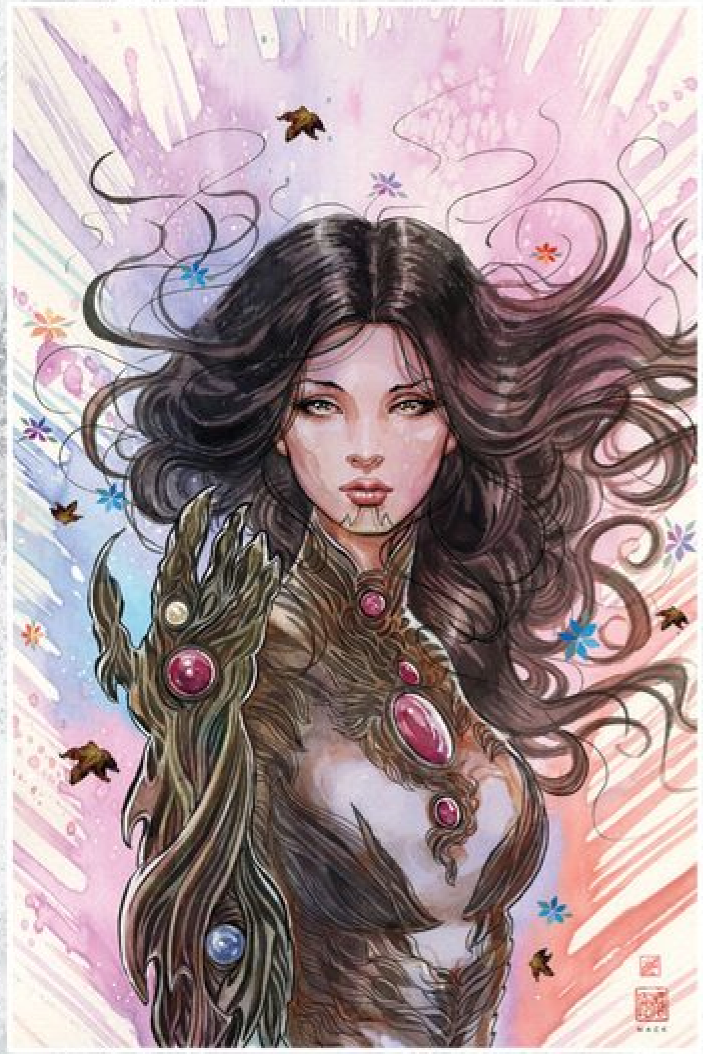

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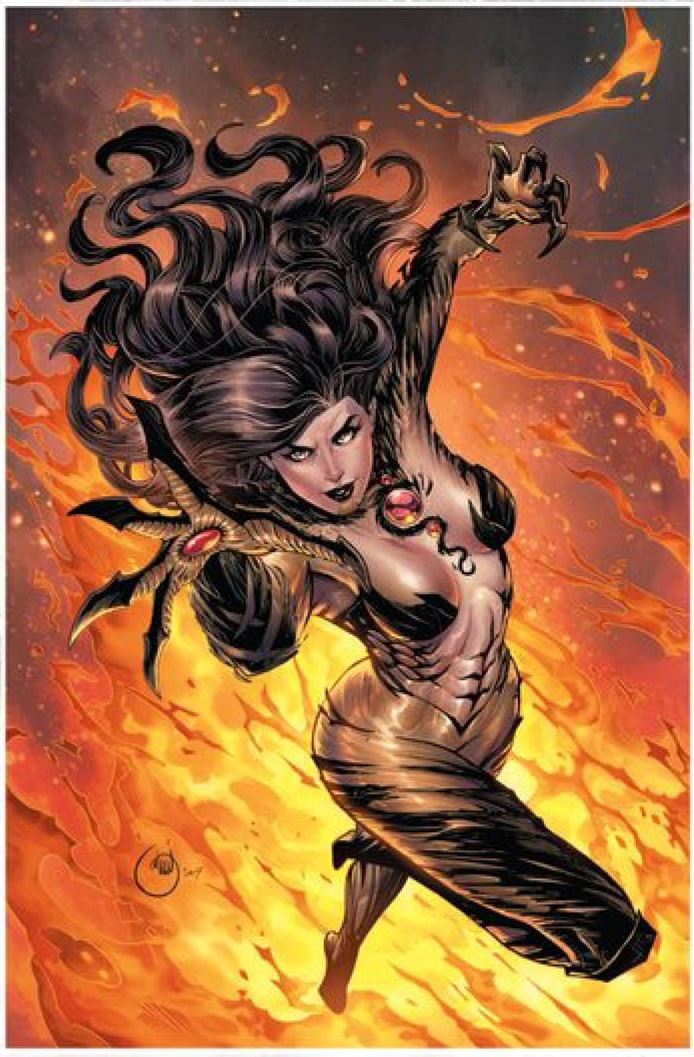

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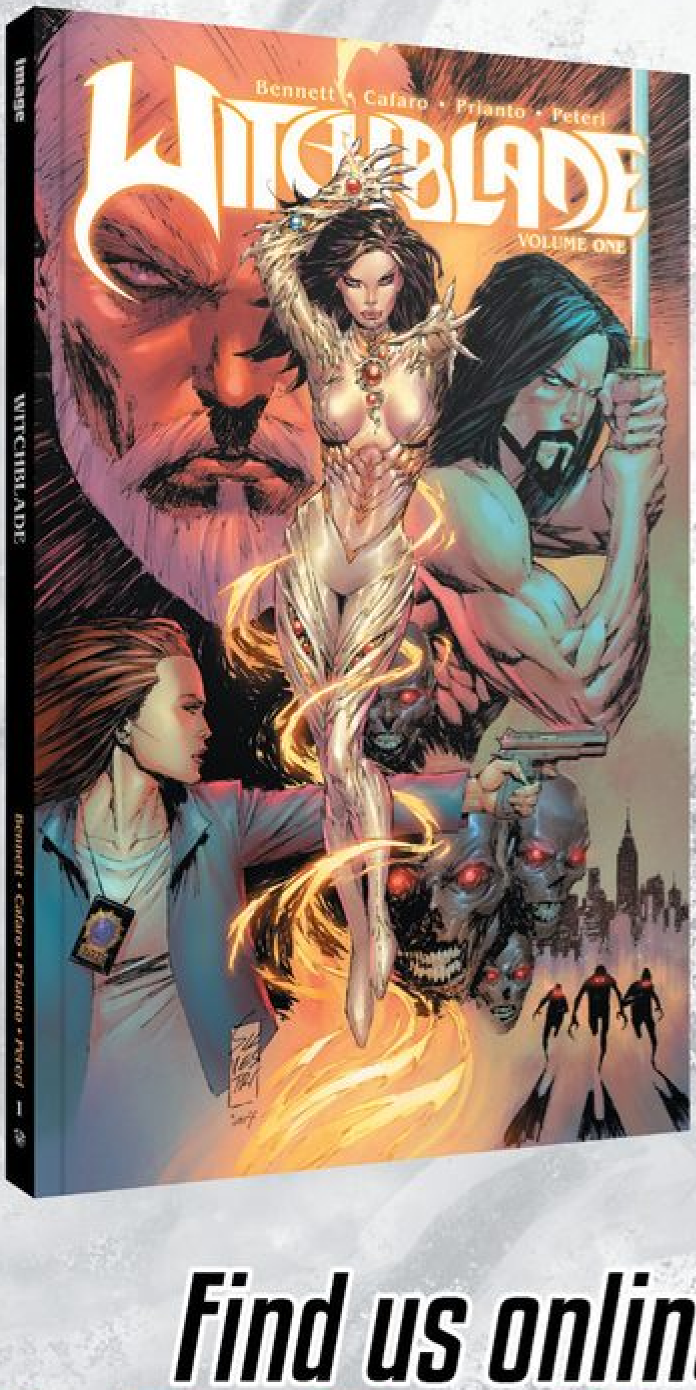
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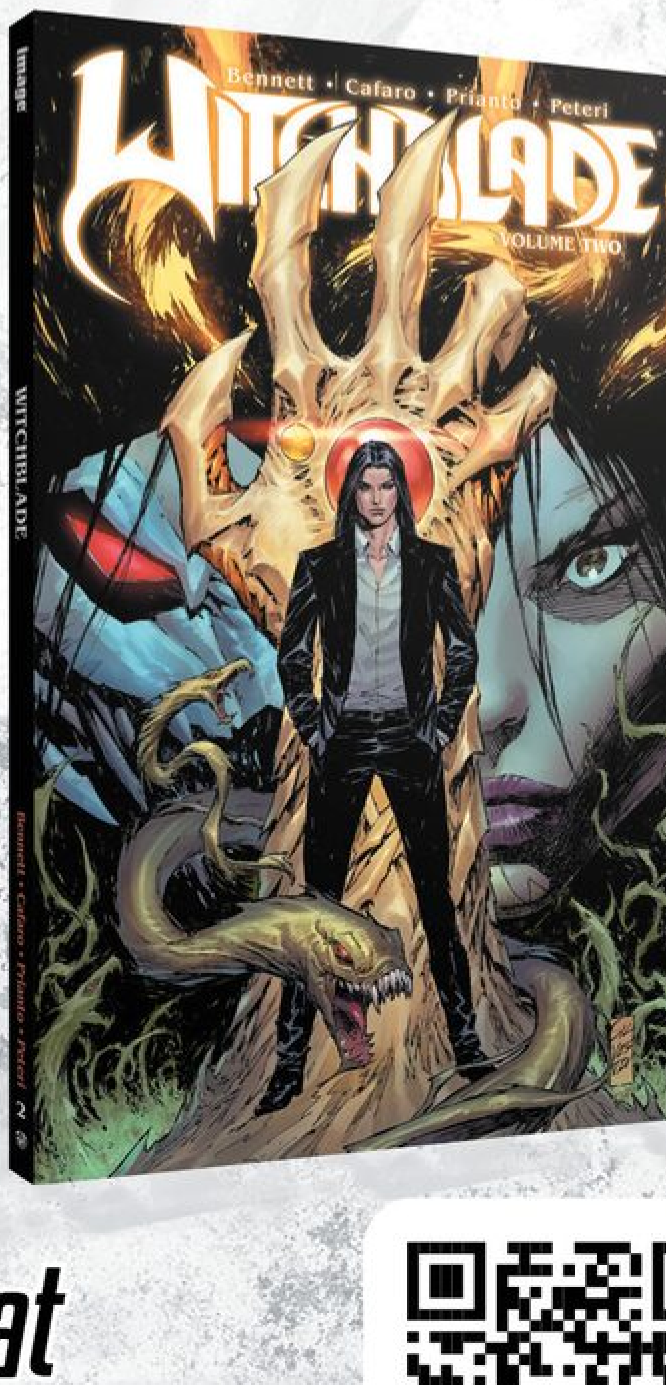
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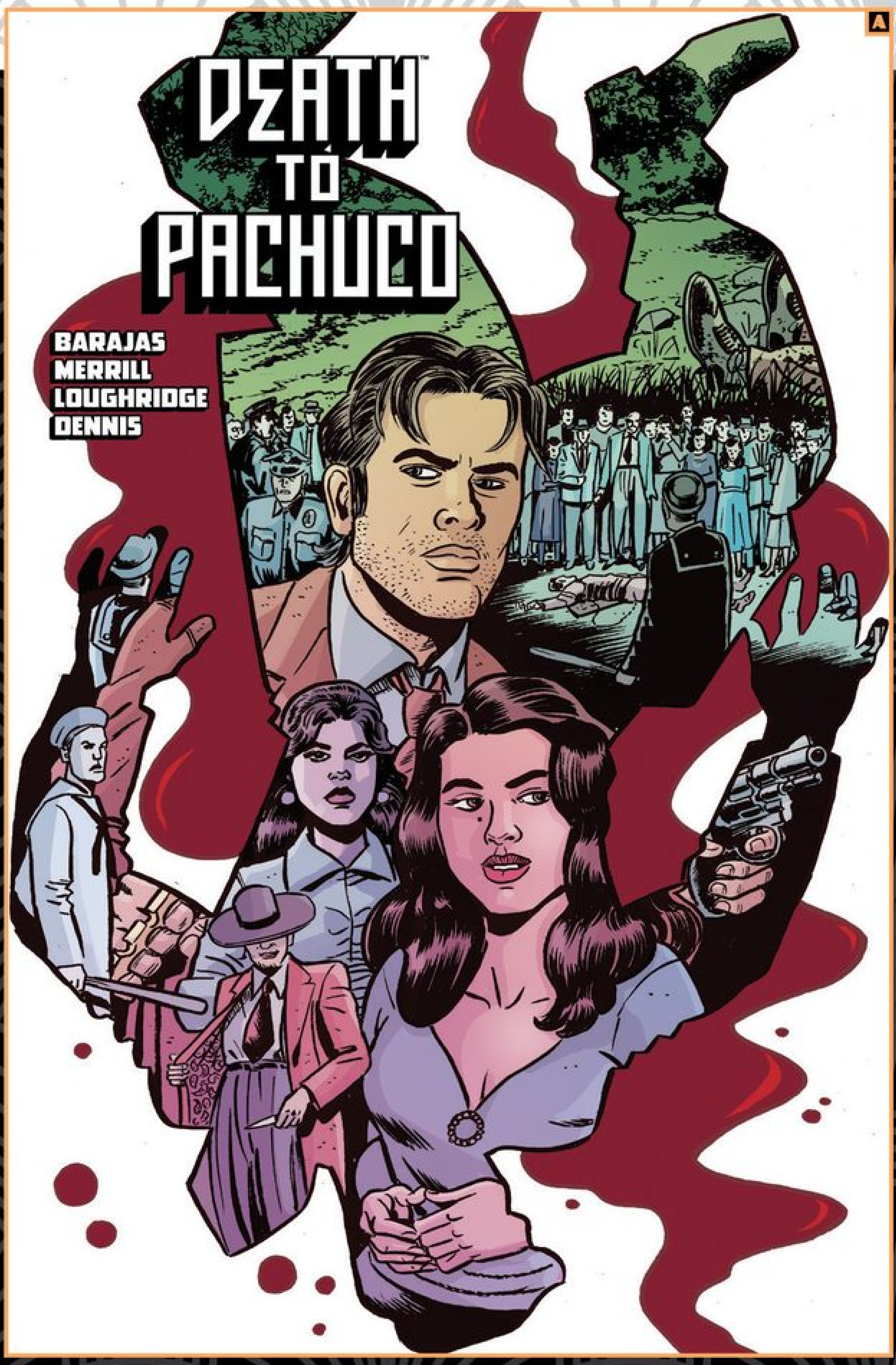

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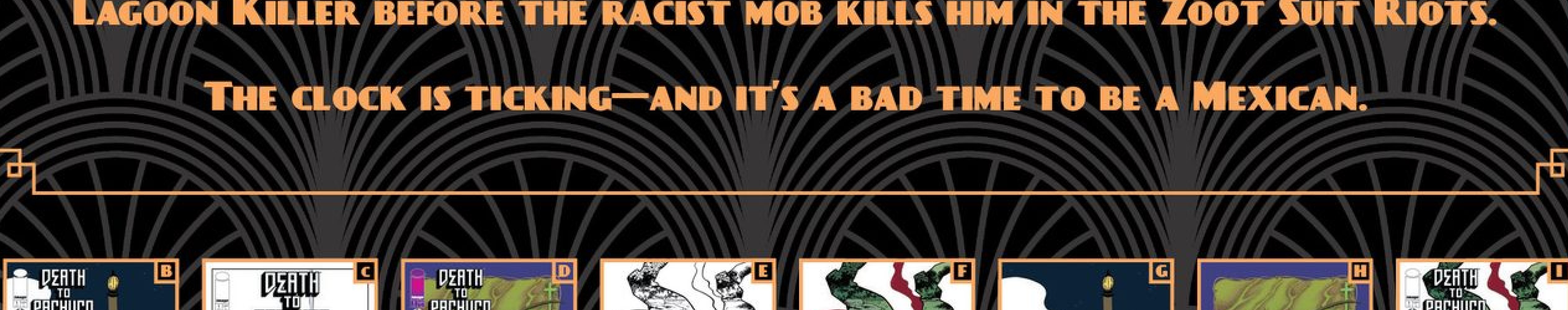

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